

The Breeze

JMU'S AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1922

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Courtesy of Tribune News Service



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MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. *The Breeze* strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

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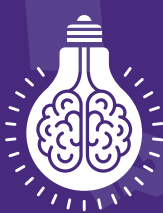
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NEWS

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What's on the ballot?

Breaking down who and what's on the line Nov. 3

By **BRICE ESTES**
The Breeze

Election Day is around the corner, and in the age of COVID-19, many Harrisonburg residents are choosing to participate in early or mail-in voting. Here's a rundown of candidates and constitutional amendments that individuals registered to vote in Harrisonburg can expect to see on their ballots.



FOR PRESIDENT



DONALD TRUMP (R)
Running on a campaign slogan of "Keep America Great," the incumbent's platform largely mirrors his 2016 agenda. His "America First"

policies prioritize lowering taxes, ending "stifling" regulations, securing the U.S. borders and retaining jobs in the country, among other issues. Trump maintains his promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Trump's running mate, Vice President Mike Pence (R), is Trump's evangelical counterpart. Pence served as a representative of Indiana in Congress for 12 years before assuming the role of Governor of Indiana in 2012.

JOE BIDEN (D)

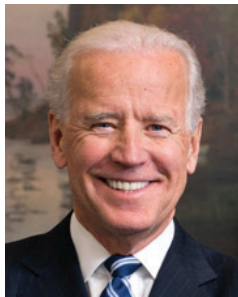
Biden served as a U.S. Senator from 1973 to 2009 and as Vice President under President Barack Obama (D) from 2009 to 2017.

A hot-button issue on Biden's agenda is imposing tax increases for corporations and the "wealthiest Americans." Biden said, Americans who make less than \$400,000 a year won't "pay a penny more in taxes." Additionally, Biden said he'll levy over a dozen middle class tax cuts.

Biden's platform also prioritizes "building back better" in the wake of the pandemic, establishing racial and social equity, instituting a clean energy future, modernizing America's immigration system and ending gun violence by ceasing the online sale of firearms

and requiring background checks for all gun sales.

Biden's running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris (D), is the first Black and South Asian woman to be a major party's vice presidential nominee. After serving as the California Attorney General for six years, Harris became the junior senator for California in 2017. She then ran for president, ending her bid in December 2019.



Courtesy of the Obama White House Archives

vows on her website to slash federal spending and reduce taxes.

She said as president she'd work to remove government barriers to replace coal and oil burning power plants with "safe, non-polluting, high-tech" nuclear power plants and off-grid solar power.

Jorgensen said her goal is to "turn America into one giant Switzerland, armed and neutral." She's in favor of a military "laser-focused on defending America," but without involvement in foreign wars. She's a proponent of returning the over 200,000 American military personnel stationed overseas, ceasing military aid to foreign governments and ending blockades and embargoes on non-military trade.

Spike Cohen is Jorgensen's running mate. Cohen is a political activist, entrepreneur and podcaster.



Courtesy of the Libertarian Party of Ohio

JO JORGENSEN (L)

Jorgensen, the only third party presidential candidate, is on the ballot. She's running as a Libertarian and served as the Libertarian Party's candidate for South Carolina's 4th Congressional District in 1992.

Jorgensen wrote on her website that the U.S. should reduce red tape and regulation of medicines, treatment and testing so patient access increases. She also said she prioritizes returning control of education to the hands of students, parents and teachers. Jorgensen

FOR SENATE

MARK WARNER (D)

For the last 11 years, Warner has represented Virginia in the U.S. Senate. As senator, Warner has guided 55 bills signed into law. Warner lists lowering the costs of prescription



Courtesy of warner.senate.gov

drugs, protecting "natural treasures" like the Chesapeake Bay and creating jobs in Virginia as his biggest successes during his

tenure. He said his priorities for his next term are correcting the "out-of-control cost" of health care, procuring solutions to climate change and aiding the future of our economy.

Warner also said he's committed to ensuring that every Virginian has access to quality, affordable health care and emphasizes protecting benefits for Americans with pre-existing conditions.

Warner wrote on his website that climate change is one of the largest threats to American health, economy and national security. He supports legislation like the Clean Economy Act, which establishes a goal for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

DANIEL GADE (R)

Gade served in the U.S. military for over 20 years. After suffering an injury that resulted in the amputation of his right leg, Gade worked on veteran issues and military healthcare in former President George W. Bush's administration.

The first bill Gade said he wants to see through Congress is aimed at stopping insider trading among members of Congress and levy felonies on public servants who use insider, nonpublic information to gain an advantage in their financial endeavors.

On the environment, Gade said both

parties should be able to find common ground. He said he's a proponent of clean water and renewable energy.

A proponent of term limits and bipartisan efforts, Gade said he will prioritize balancing the budget and prevent purposeful overspending by career politicians to buy elections.



Courtesy of Elect535

FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BEN CLINE (R)

Cline is seeking reelection in the 6th district. He's co-sponsored over 100 bipartisan bills during his 2-year tenure in Congress. From 2002 until 2018, Cline represented the 24th House District in the Virginia General Assembly.



Courtesy of GovTrack

Cline said the most important issue Congress must address this term is helping the country recover from the COVID-19 pandemic — starting with the development and deployment of a safe and effective vaccine.

Cline supports funding to law enforcement agencies to provide body cameras, de-escalation training and a national database to prevent the re-hiring of officers fired for violating their agency's protocols.

Cline said because the sixth congressional district is one of the largest agriculture producing districts in the country, protecting natural resources is a top priority. He said he supports an "all-of-the-above energy policy" which creates a competitive market between traditional energy sources — like coal, oil, and natural gas — and alternative energy sources.

Another item on Cline's agenda is pushing back against the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Cline said the mandates placed on insurance policies by the ACA have raised premiums for many Americans.

NICHOLAS BETTS (D)

Betts has worked in various jobs, including landscaper and substitute teacher, and lives in Lexington, Virginia.

The first item listed on Betts' platform is providing a public healthcare option for all citizens while maintaining an option for private health insurance.

Betts calls for universal background checks at the federal level and a 1% federal sales tax on ammunition to fund violence prevention programs.

In terms of police reform, Betts advocates for a federal government developed police training program and increased transparency through federally mandated body camera usage and a national database of police misconduct.

Betts also lists reforming education through funding, reducing student debt through loan forgiveness, offering tax credits for clean energy, expanding internet access, upholding Roe v.

Wade, protecting the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and decriminalizing marijuana use as top priorities.



Courtesy of @VoteForBetts on Twitter

FOR HARRISONBURG CITY COUNCIL

In the race for City Council, five candidates — two of whom are incumbents — are vying for three available seats. Among the candidates are three Democrats, one Independent and one Republican.

Here's the list of candidates for Harrisonburg's City Council and school board.



Courtesy of the city of Harrisonburg

DEANNA READ (D)

Four years ago, Reed became the first Black female mayor of Harrisonburg. Born and raised in the northeast neighborhood, she's served two consecutive terms working to "represent a voice that was missing at

the table and make sure our community was one where people feel included." Reed is the program director for On the Road Collaborative, which helps over 300 students prepare for success in high school, college and their future careers. Reed lists education as a priority issue on her website. In a community where 61% of the population lives below the Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) threshold according to the United Way, Reed wrote that she "will not walk away" without ensuring that every Harrisonburg resident has affordable housing.

GEORGE HIRSCHMANN (I)

Hirschmann has perched on the council bench for four years. As the only independent candidate on the ballot, Hirschmann writes on his website that his goal is to bar partisan politics from local government. He cataloged returning Harrisonburg residents to work "as safely and as quickly as possible" in the wake of the pandemic at the apex of his issues. He also noted that his role in doling out CARES act funded grants to local businesses was integral to this goal.

Hirschmann's website details that tax rates in the city have "grown to the point that residents and businesses are fleeing the city," and lists that he's a fiscally responsible candidate who can tackle the issue.



Courtesy of the City of Harrisonburg



Courtesy of LauraForCityCouncil

LAURA DENT (D)

Dent is a pragmatic progressive — which means she aligns herself with progressive goals like environmental and social justice while also retaining emphasis on the process to reach those goals. Dent

was an adjunct technical writing professor at JMU until the pandemic, when she decided she'd take a few years off. As a founding team member of the Friendly City Food Co-op, Dent said she knows how to support the recovery of small businesses in the aftermath of this public health crisis. She also supports the 50 by 25 plan to move to 50% renewable energy in Harrisonburg's electric grid by 2025, and affordable housing efforts through "fair standards" for zoning and taxes to encourage home ownership and protect tenants' rights.

CHARLES HENDRICKS (D)

Having lived in the Valley for 12 years, Hendricks said his focus on the Council would be on sustainability, business and community. Hendricks wrote that the community has an "ethical duty" to address climate change immediately by "focusing on clean energy, air, and water." He said he'll work to create affordable clean energy sources that are available for all residents by establishing a weatherization program — which reduces energy bills of low-income families by making their homes more energy efficient. He also prioritizes uncovering a solution to aiding

Harrisonburg's homeless population. Hendricks said his background in design and construction qualify him to establishing housing that's affordable based on all local incomes and experiences.



Courtesy of Hendricks for Harrisonburg



Courtesy of Kelley4Council

KATHLEEN KELLEY (R)

Kelley is the first Republican candidate to run for city council since 2014. Kelley is an integrative medicine physician with Sentara, who has lived in Harrisonburg

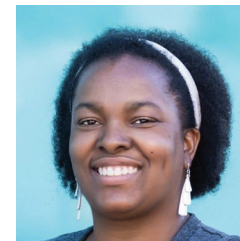
since 1997. She said she hopes to be a voice for Harrisonburg's workers and small business owners. Kelley said she wants to build a "strong, resilient, 'crisis proof'" city by expanding the manufacturing base, promoting trade skills through education and removing "burdensome" taxes and regulations that she said suffocates small businesses. Kelley has faced criticism for her Facebook posts promoting QAnon and far-right political memes, but her political messaging remains targeted at advocating for families and local businesses.

FOR HARRISONBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

KAYLENE SEIGLE

Seigle grew up in Harrisonburg, attending Harrisonburg High School and EMU. She previously served on the HCPS School Board, and is aiming for reelection. Seigle wrote on her website that residents should vote for her because

she believes she can "bring a new perspective to the board and awaits the chance to improve our schools."



Courtesy of Vote Kaylene



Courtesy of LinkedIn

IRVIN PECKHAM

Peckham has been a teacher for 45 years — spending 13 years as a high school English teacher, six

as a graduate student teaching assistant, and 28 as professor and writing program director at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Having published two books and over 30 articles on writing assessment, writing program administration and social class influences on writing instruction, Peckham's platform focuses on assessment reform.

DEB FITZGERALD

Fitzgerald has served as the vice chair and chair of the HCPS School Board, and is seeking reelection to the board. She's lived in Harrisonburg since 1985, and said watching the city undergo "dramatic changes to become a diverse and dynamic place to live and work" has prepared her for the duty of serving on the board. Fitzgerald is currently teaching remotely

and face-to-face at EMU, and said she understands what families and other teachers are going through and is ready to work to get students back in the classroom.



Courtesy of Deb Fitz for School Board



Courtesy of JMU

NICK SWAYNE

Formerly serving as chair of the HCPS School Board, Swayne is seeking a fourth term on the board.

Swayne is the founder of JMU X-Labs, which he said he created to help develop the campus' innovation ecosystem. He's also the executive director of 4-Virginia — a collaboration of eight Virginia public institutions to leverage their combined strengths to improve higher education's efficiency and economic impact.

Wait, that's not all

Virginia Constitutional Amendment No.1, Redistricting Commission:

Gerrymandering is a political tool used by both parties — depending on who's in power. It can deeply affect minority communities by diluting the power of their vote.

The Virginia General Assembly and Governor Ralph Northam (D) will draw a new district map next year based on 2020 Census results. The proposed amendment aims to stop gerrymandering from dictating that process by shifting the responsibility of drawing these election districts to a bipartisan commission, who would then submit the maps for approval from the General Assembly. If commissioners — appointed by legislators — don't agree on maps or if the General Assembly doesn't approve the submitted maps by a certain date, the Supreme Court of Virginia is responsible for drawing the election districts.

According to the Virginia Mercury, the Democratic Party of Virginia is urging voters to oppose the proposed constitutional amendment because the bipartisan process will be inherently political and will quench any hope of a third party rising to influence. Conversely, the Republican Party of Virginia said that Democrats hold this view because they control the General Assembly and are

unwilling to relinquish the power to redraw the maps themselves.

Virginia Constitutional Amendment No.2, Disabled Veterans Vehicle:

The second proposed constitutional amendment would exclude disabled veterans from paying personal property taxes on cars and pickup trucks. The measure is a state and local tax break for veterans of the United States armed forces or the Virginia National Guard who have a 100% service-connected, permanent and total disability. Under the amendment, a vehicle that's owned by the spouse of a disabled veteran could also be free from taxation.

According to Vote411, proponents of the measure say that veterans who are totally disabled from a military-related experience have sacrificed enough for their country, so eliminating the burden of taxes on their primary vehicle is deserved. Critics of the amendment say the exemption is too broad and should've included limitations on eligibility based on income or value of the exempted vehicle.

CONTACT Brice Estes at estes2ba@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



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Thursday, October 29, 2020

By the thousands

JMU administers weekly free COVID-19 tests to increase capacity in Harrisonburg

By **EDA TERCAN**
The Breeze

JMU announced Oct. 19 that it'll be administering 1,000 free COVID-19 tests each week to anyone over the age of 17, regardless of symptoms or exposure. Testing will take place for five weeks at University Park.

The testing will occur on Wednesdays from 2-7 p.m. on Oct. 21, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11 and Nov. 18. The testing is in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, Virginia Department of Health, City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

Laura Lee Wight, population health community coordinator with the Central Shenandoah Health District, said that they're giving free tests to ensure that those individuals who are uninsured, underinsured or have limited access to healthcare are able to

access a COVID-19 test. "Our aim is to supplement local testing capacity to ensure that anyone who needs to get tested is able to access a test," Wight said.

Senior economics and international affairs double major Leila Corvera-Fontela said that she thinks free testing is a great idea for those whose insurance might not cover the test and can't afford it.

"It really expands the demographic and amount of people that can access such a critical medical resource right now," Corvera-Fontela said. "It's great that almost anybody in the community can have access to these tests."

Wight said they're working with JMU to identify locations on campus where both students, and the surrounding community, can easily access the tests. They're also working with local emergency managers to identify locations off campus

that'd benefit from increased testing capacity.

see **THE MORE THE BETTER** page 9



Testing is being done with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Virginia Department of Health, the city of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Photo courtesy of Tribune News Service

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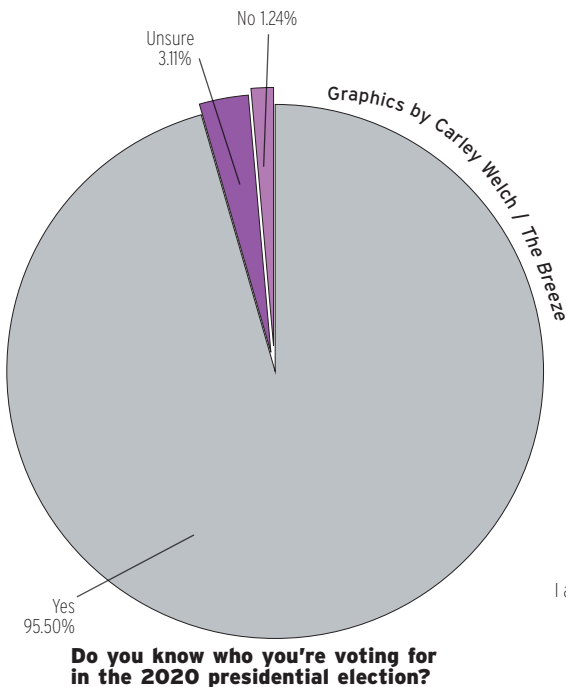
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Survey says...

MOST OF JMU COMMUNITY PLANS TO VOTE FOR BIDEN



By CARLEY WELCH
The Breeze

In a survey conducted for The Breeze in conjunction with a SMAD 497 election coverage project, it was revealed that the majority of student and employee respondents definitely plan to vote on Nov. 3. Most respondents know who they're voting for, and the majority of students and employees plan to vote for the Democratic presidential candidate, Joe Biden.

The survey had 1,294 responses, with 617 of them, or 47.72%, being from employees and 676 of them, or 52.28%, being from students.

The survey asked JMU students, faculty and staff members about their political preferences and knowledge in regard to the 2020 presidential election.

The survey wasn't a scientific poll but was aimed at collecting opinions about voting.

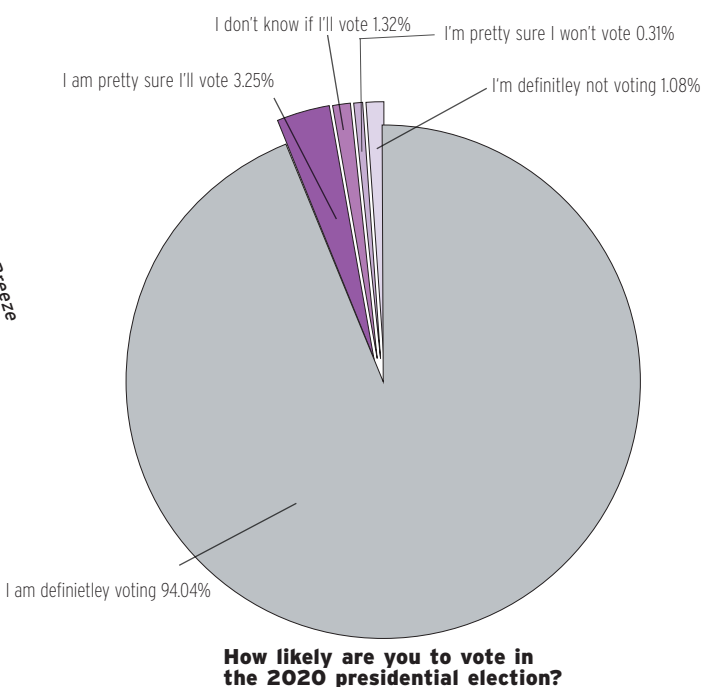
The survey was sent out Oct. 9 using JMU's bulk email service and was open for 10 days. The survey was sent to 21,536 students and 3,887 JMU employees. All responses were recorded anonymously.

With the intention of testing the general knowledge of who's running for president in the national election, the second question in the survey, following the first question of whether respondents were faculty, staff members or students, was "Who are the Democratic and Republican candidates running in the 2020 presidential election?"

Out of the 1,274 respondents who answered this question, all but four identified the candidates on the Democratic and Republican tickets.

Relationship between party affiliation and candidate preference

When asked, "Which category below



best defines you?" respondents were given the following answer choices: registered Democrat, registered Republican, registered Independent and "I'm not registered to vote."

Few people said they'd cross over to support the candidate of the opposite party from the one they identified with, and the majority of those who best identified as a registered independent said they're voting for Biden.

Virginia, where most JMU students and employees are registered to vote, given that most students and employees are Virginia residents, is an open primary state where voters don't have to register as a member of a party. Other states such as Florida and Kentucky require voters to pick whether they're a registered Democrat, Republican or Independent.

Because the question asked which "best" described the respondent, it was meant to reveal the party the respondents most identified with.

Out of the 608 who responded that they best identify as a registered Democrat, eight said they'll vote for Trump, 591 said they'll vote for Biden, none said they're not voting, two said they aren't sure and seven said other.

Out of the cumulative 55 respondents who said they're voting for another candidate, 29 individuals said they're voting for either Jo Jorgensen, Howie Hawkins or writing in another candidate's name. Other answers included "Bunguiu Norales," "myself," "Bernie Sanders," "Gloria La Riva," "Liberatarian candidate" and "a third party candidate."

"Any body/thing other than F^%\$@ing Trump," Jane Doe said.

One respondent said "other" because they're not a U.S. citizen. Other respondents

that answered "other" didn't list an actual candidate but instead said that it was a private matter and wished not to share.

"None of your business," John Doe said.

293 respondents said they best identified as a registered Republican. 234 of these respondents said they're voting for Trump, 36 said they're voting for Biden, none said they're not voting, 16 said they're not sure and seven said other.

Out of the 347 respondents who said they best identified with the category registered Independent, 68 said they're voting for Trump, 212 said they're voting for Biden, eight said they're not voting, 22 said they're not sure and 37 said other.

Eighteen respondents replied that they're not registered to vote.

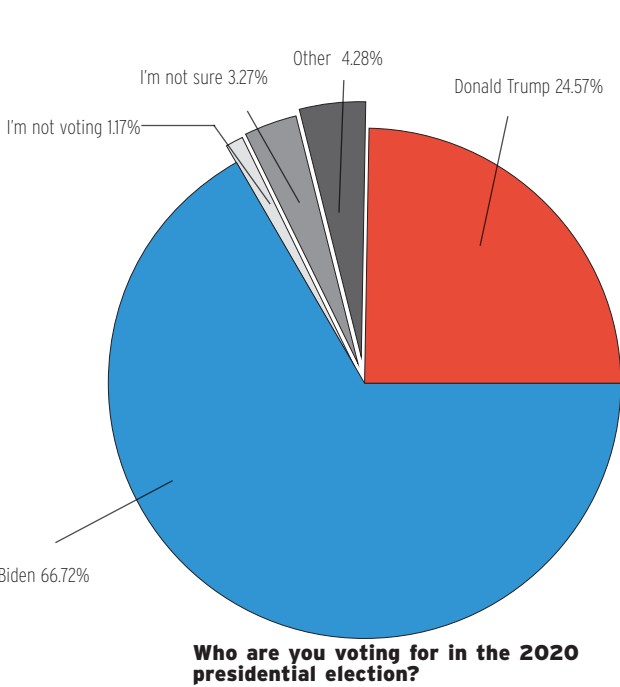
Relationship between likeliness of voting and candidate preference

94.04% of all respondents said they're definitely voting. However, out of the 1,208 respondents who answered their likeness of voting and who they're voting for, 24 of these respondents said they're still undecided on who they'll vote for.

When asked, "How likely are you to vote in the 2020 presidential election?" there were five options: "I am definitely voting," "I'm pretty sure I will vote," "I do not know if I will vote," "I am pretty sure I will not vote" and "I am definitely not voting."

Out of the 1,208 respondents who answered both questions and said they're definitely voting, 25.30% said they're voting for Trump, 68.90% said they're voting for Biden, 2% said they're unsure and 3.8% responded other.

Seventeen respondents answered, "I do not know if I will vote." Five of these respondents said they'll vote for Trump,



one said they'll vote for Biden, two said they aren't voting and nine said they're not sure who they'll vote for.

Fourteen respondents said they're not voting.

Differences between student and employee candidate preferences and party affiliation

Among students and employees who responded, their preferences for presidential candidates weren't vastly different. Of student respondents, 26.90% of those who made a pick in the presidential race favored Trump, while 22.50% of employees said they said they prefer the president.

The biggest gap between student and employee responses were those regarding voting for Biden. 62.70% of students said they plan on voting for Biden, while 73% of employees said they're voting for Biden.

Out of the various categories of identification, it was determined that most respondents identified as a registered Democrat. From those who responded on which party they best identify with, 45.50% of students said they identify as a registered Democrat, and 50.60% of employees said they identify as a registered Democrat.

On the contrary, 25.70% of students and 20.20% of employees said they identified as a registered Republican. 27.20% of students identified as a registered Independent, and 28% of employees identified as a registered Independent. 1.60% of students and 1.20% of employees said they're not registered to vote.

CONTACT Carley Welch at welchcw@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

'THE CORONAVIRUS ELECTION'

The pandemic creates value shift for students

The coronavirus isn't just impacting who students are voting for, it's also impacting how they're submitting their votes. Photos from Tribune News Service

By **RYANN SHEEHY**
The Breeze

The New York Times said that right now, "all politics is virus politics." The Seattle Times called masks the symbol of the 2020 race. Reuters is declaring this election "the coronavirus election."

Student perspectives

But, is the pandemic ranking as high on the list of important issues for college students as these news outlets predict it is for other Americans?

"The main thing that [COVID-19] did is made this a must-vote election where there's no way now where you could be [like] 'I'm not political here,'" Billy McKeon, a sophomore international affairs major and campaigns director for the JMU College Democrats, said. "Everybody's being

impacted by who's in power right now, there's no way you can sit this election out anymore."

While issues like racial justice and climate change may still be at the top of young voters' minds, some agree that the coronavirus can't be dismissed when thinking about who to vote for.

"Just the fact that I feel like Trump has failed us with finding a solution," Jessica Reid, a junior health sciences major, said. "Cause everyone else could figure it out, why can't we?"

McKeon said COVID-19 has emphasized just how much the government can affect the daily lives of everyone, including college-aged voters.

"I think for the college students especially, [COVID-19] has had the biggest impact because ... we're doing so many things over Zoom," McKeon said. "I mean, our lives have been drastically changed ever since March, and Donald Trump

[is] pretty much disregarding it."

Reid agreed that, while the virus may affect other demographics more severely, college students can't help but see COVID-19 as a major deciding factor in the election.

"I feel like this election is so divided anyways that I feel like, [the COVID-19] response was kind of just the icing on the cake," Reid said.

Bipartisanship

Wyatt Blevins, JMU College Republicans' chairman and junior political science and public policy and administration double major, said the election continues to divide people, sending each party to its extreme.

"We just saw Dianne Feinstein and Lindsey Graham hugged on the Senate floor and the world exploded because people of two political parties were friendly with each other," Blevins said. "I hope that that sort of stuff ends, but I'm afraid that the pandemic has just made it worse."

Blevins also agreed that the coronavirus has altered the course of this election.

"I don't know if it necessarily hurt one party and hurt another or helped another," Blevins said. "They both definitely hurt themselves in different ways throughout this process. So, I think that the biggest thing that it did was change people's focus, and that could change the election."

Voter culture shift

Not only is the coronavirus impacting who students vote for, but it's also affecting how they vote. While many students may have been voting absentee since they've been in college, more are going out to the polls early and requesting mail-in ballots.

For one, McKeon said "voter culture" — the ways in which citizens participate in elections — is one of the biggest changes COVID-19 has made to politics.

"I think so many people are sick of the system that we're in right now, and thinking we just need to kind of rewrite everything and just do it completely differently," McKeon said. "And I think voting culture, as we're seeing a change right now, is going to be one of those things that people want to see change drastically."

While mail-in voting has been allowed in states long before the coronavirus, Blevins said he thinks there's still plenty to learn from and improve in the absentee system.

"I'm fairly trepidatious about it simply because something huge could happen after you've already voted that could change the entire dynamic," Blevins said. "I mean, the president got coronavirus, and a Supreme Court justice passed away."

During the election, on-campus organizations who advocate for civic engagement have gotten creative with ways to spread the word, often virtually.

President of the JMU College Democrats Luke Forbes said his club has done all of its

campaigning either through phone and text banks or social media this year. The JMU College Republicans have also started doing more call campaigns, but they're continuing some in-person canvassing as well.

"A lot less people are coming to doors, completely understandably," Blevins said. "And then you also have a lot less students that are willing to go out and do it."

Since the deadline for voter registration in Virginia was Oct. 15, Forbes said his attention is now turned toward ensuring students actually cast their votes.

"JMU has actually one of the higher rates of voter registration of any school," Forbes, a senior philosophy major, said. "The only discrepancy is actually turning out those students. That's the one thing that we've definitely struggled with."

Whether the 18-to-24-year-old voter demographic will increase its participation this year is yet to be seen, but there's been much speculation that this election could see the highest voter turnout in decades, despite COVID-19 restrictions.

However, one question still remains: will the political activism of young voters in this election cycle have a lasting effect on politics?

"This pandemic has radicalized me, you know, because 'Medicare for all,' is something that I've always been very supportive of," Forbes said. "I think it's really emphasized the importance and the need of having a health care program that guarantees affordable health care for all people as a human right, as is the case with every major developed country on the planet, except for us."

With healthcare policy and COVID-19 at the forefront of this election, Blevins agreed that each candidate's handling — or promised handling — of the pandemic may sway voter opinions.

"Trump will say, well, 'Biden said that me shutting down travel to China was xenophobic,' and then Biden will say, well, 'Trump didn't listen to anybody and waited too long,'" Blevins said. "And that's just how it is. That's politics."

Blevins said the polarized political climate in the U.S. today may be able to change if college students alter their views of people with opposing opinions.

"I think that one thing we need to learn is that because somebody disagrees with you, doesn't mean they're evil," Blevins said. "And particularly in the era of social media, we are very quick to just condemn everyone who disagrees with us."

Blevins, Forbes and McKeon all emphasized the importance of voting and hoped that this momentum from college students won't stop after Election Day.

"I mean, there's so many issues we cannot slow down after November 3," McKeon said.

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The tests are being administered for free to ensure those who are uninsured, underinsured or have limited access to healthcare can have a COVID-19 test. Tristan Lorei / The Breeze



Testing events are done in a drive-through style but limited walk-up tests are also available. Courtesy of Tribune News Service

THE MORE THE BETTER

from page 6

Testing is done as a drive-through event, with limited walk-up testing also available. Participants can preregister online or register onsite.

Wight said the reason for the age limit is because the self-swab tests given at the events aren't recommended for children. For those under age 17 that need a test, she said they should call their local health department to find out more about weekly COVID-19 testing events in the area with no age restrictions.

With the availability of free tests, senior international affairs major Elizabeth Rolén said she believes that more students should be required to get tested, whether they live on campus or off.

"If they're requiring kids to be on campus

and be in in-person classes, there should be a requirement for kids to get tested," Rolén said. "The more people that get tested, the better."

As an on-campus employee, Rolén said she "find[s] it a little strange" that she's never been required or asked to get tested. Anyone required to go on campus should be required to be tested, she said.

Corvera-Fontela said that as good as the free testing is, it isn't enough to stop the rise of COVID-19 cases at JMU, especially this late in the semester.

"JMU needs to keep their students accountable," Corvera-Fontela said. "This isn't preventive, this is acting after the consequences."

CONTACT Eda Tercan at tercana@dukes.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

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Want to praise someone or get something off your chest? Darts & Pats is the place to do it. Submit your own at breezejmu.org.

A **"stay-back!"** dart to the approach of winter and the seasonal depression it'll no doubt bring me.

From someone who really doesn't need that in their life right now, thanks.

A **"small-victories"** pat to myself for actually speaking up when my friend hurt my feelings instead of brushing it under the rug.

From someone who hates conflict and is more surprised than anyone.

A **"here-we-go-again"** dart to the show I'm rewatching once again instead of getting invested in a new TV show.

From a girl who finds it hard to get into new things.

An **"I'm-ready"** pat to the Christmas decorations I'm starting to see invading stores.

From someone who doesn't care if it's still two months away.



Trump selected Barrett to be the newest Supreme Court justice, to many people's dismay. Courtesy of Tribune News Service

BIG MISTAKE

Amy Barrett isn't cut out to be a US Supreme Court justice

MASTAN RASHID | contributing writer



Amy Barrett shouldn't have been confirmed as a justice.

Barrett made headlines as Trump's nomination for U.S. Supreme Court justice shortly after the death of Ginsburg, whose career aimed at ensuring equal rights for women and equal protection under the law for all. She made it clear that if she were to die during the presidential election year, her wish would be to leave the seat vacant until after the election. The Trump administration didn't honor her final wish, as they immediately worked to fill the now vacant U.S. Supreme Court seat, completely disrespecting Ginsburg's legacy.

Apart from what the outcome of the 2020 election will be, Barrett's confirmation will go beyond Trump's time in office. U.S.

Supreme Court justices serve lifelong terms, so it should've been in the people's hands to vote in this upcoming election and let the next president move forward with appointing the next U.S. Supreme Court justice. With election day so close, it's obvious the Trump administration rushed to pack in another judge, which made the majority of the U.S. Supreme Court conservative.

Democratic senators pushed for an appointment to be filled after the November election, but it was a tough fight, as the Senate majority is Republican. Barrett is a conservative woman who's known to let her religion guide her views and is a popular figure among conservatives. In a position that's meant to be bipartisan, justices often show their biases through their rulings, and often presidents will appoint those who align with their party's beliefs. Although Barrett has stated that she won't mix her faith with her work, it's been an area of concern and a hot topic that's been discussed during her hearings.

The fact that she's religious isn't the problem — the concern comes from whether or not her Catholic beliefs will overpower her commitment to the American people and the Constitution.

The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, which has made healthcare

available for millions, has been targeted throughout Trump's presidency. The Affordable Care Act could be jeopardized in November when it'll be brought to the courts, especially with the appointment of Barrett. Overturning parts of Obamacare or its entirety will harm people covered by the act who otherwise couldn't afford healthcare.

Additionally, abortion accessibility is up for debate, as *Roe v. Wade* has resurfaced as a talking point during Barrett's hearing. This landmark case made it legal for women to make the choice of having an abortion without fearing restrictions from the government. When asked about the Supreme Court case of *Roe v. Wade*, Barrett never gave a clear answer on her stance, but in 2006, Barrett made her beliefs known by signing her name on a movement that disagrees with the Court's decision on *Roe v. Wade*. The statement she signed her name onto was made by St. Joseph County Right to Life, an organization created to counter *Roe v. Wade*. Its main goal was to "support the right to life from fertilization to a natural death".

Another alarming, yet brief, moment of her confirmation hearing was when she was asked to recite the five liberties of the First Amendment. For someone who's worked their entire life in the judicial system, listing the First Amendment rights should be a no-brainer. Although her blank notepad may have been impressive, not knowing the First Amendment as a candidate for the U.S. Supreme Court is worrisome to say the least.

The confirmation of Barrett during an election year and just eight days before election day is a direct attack on democracy. The people of the U.S. should've been allowed to have their voices heard by casting their ballots for a president who has their best interests in mind. Whoever wins the 2020 election should've had the power to nominate the next Supreme Court justice, all while honoring the wishes of the late and legendary Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

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Professors and students alike have to adapt to online learning. Tristan Lorei / The Breeze

Different struggles

Virtual classes are hard for professors, too

LIZ RICCIO | rags to riccio



The transition from in-person instruction to online classes has been a stressor not only for students across the country but for professors and administration as well. Worse, rather than a smooth adjustment, students and professors have been yanked in opposite directions as JMU switched from in-person to online learning and back again.

The repeatedly disorganized nature of this semester has sprouted worry into the minds of many students, making them wonder what classes may look like in the spring. Although receiving a college education online is unideal for many, the constant pressures of switching back and forth between in-person and online instruction has taken its toll on students and faculty. Students have lost motivation, seen the layout of their classes flipped upside down and have become more dependent on technology than ever before.

Unfortunately, these consequences haven't solely affected students. They've also hurt the professors who must cater to these challenges on the fly.

Learning how to use video applications such as Zoom and WebEx was only the start of a difficult transition to come. Luckily for students, adapting to new technology doesn't stray too far from the norm. But, for professors who've perfected their teaching environment and style, creating a whole new virtual classroom has proven to be quite complicated.

As if creating a whole new lesson plan and teaching virtual setup isn't enough, in many classes, students refuse to turn on their cameras and mics, leaving professors to essentially talk to a blank screen. Knowing that students are comprehending the class material is pivotal in creating an effective curriculum, so being unable to receive feedback as they usually would when looking around the classroom has become detrimental for both students and faculty.

Zoom has also presented issues for time-intensive courses like labs. "Because of classroom size limits, students are also spending a lot less time 'in class' — or synchronous time," Liz Doyle, a biology professor, said. "Lab students spend [half] the usual scheduled time being synchronous, and lecture students only spend [a third] of the

scheduled time synchronously. So they have to do a lot more outside of class or lab — and I think that gets forgotten."

Beyond not having the usual time accommodations and interpersonal connections that a classroom fosters, professors now have to strategize how to best communicate the intricacies of their fields through remote learning. From computer science to graphic design to biology labs, professors have had to become creative in their uses of an online classroom, especially for courses that are most easily taught hands-on.

"For lab, it's been really hard to try to have a meaningful experience without handling the lab equipment, or doing the experiments," Doyle said. "I can demonstrate on video and describe a technique like pipetting all I want, but until you do it yourself, it doesn't make much sense. You need practice to develop muscle memory."

For many professors, the skills that are needed to succeed in their fields are not being adequately translated to an online environment.

Some professors have given the option of both an online and in-person classroom experience for their students, a courtesy that takes a huge amount of time to accommodate. Other professors have had to take a step back from glitchy synchronous lectures to simply posting material on Canvas and assigning quizzes or tests. Beyond the extra time and effort they must put into formatting their course work, many professors have also had to invest in new software for their students to complete assignments that were once done in campus computer labs.

Throughout this semester's confusing decisions, professors are certainly being challenged just as much as students, if not more. These faculty members have had to transform their curriculum to cater to students' needs, learn new technologies, set up new spaces to teach from and conquer the multiple unexpected detours presented by the administration. Dr. Doyle said, "Science is unfortunately getting a bum rap in the public eye, and I always try to convince students otherwise. I don't want to miss the mark this semester and I am afraid I am." It's clear that professors are just as concerned about the long-term effects of online instruction as students are.

Although students have clearly not had great experiences this semester, one must remember that instructors have also had to overcome these challenges while being expected to produce a seamless online classroom in a fraction of the usual time. The efforts that've been made to better the situation, by both students and faculty, are admirable, especially in a landscape as unpredictable as a pandemic.

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Thursday, October 29, 2020

Jillian Carey / The Breeze



From their perspective

Do freshman regret going to JMU during a pandemic?

RACHEL GORDON | contributing writer



When one looks back on their freshman year of college, they most likely recall things such as the friends they made, their favorite professors, cheering at football

games, going out to parties or joining new clubs. This year's freshman class will have completely different memories, ones of wearing masks, staying in their dorm and staring at a laptop.

The pandemic has put everyone through a fair share of challenges, and the class of 2024 has become no stranger to its disappointments. The freshmen may be having the most difficult college experience out of everyone so far. While last year's college seniors missed out on their graduation, they at least had friends to share their loss with. The freshmen have already dealt with missing graduation, prom and all that comes with senior year of high school, and now many of them feel alone as they miss out on their first year of college, too. To get a sense of how the freshmen are holding up, 45 of them participated in a survey on their satisfaction with their first semester at JMU.

It makes sense for the freshmen to question if perhaps this wasn't the best year for them to begin their college careers. A gap year could've been a good alternative for those wanting to start college under more normal circumstances. Of the JMU freshmen polled, 68.9% reported never having considered taking a gap year before enrolling.

Now, students seem to be rethinking

their past certainty. While 48.9% don't regret their decision to attend college this year, 46.7% reported feeling unsure about whether they should've chosen to take a gap year, and 4.4% wish they had. If JMU had been more transparent about how this year was going to play out, these freshmen might've seriously considered their other options before enrolling.

JMU has received criticism for its response to COVID-19. The students who decide to attend JMU should be able to trust that the school will care for them by taking their needs and desires into consideration. It's only fair that JMU respects its students who invest their money and futures in the university by making decisions that best support them.

JMU's relationship with its class of 2024 is definitely off to a rocky start with the schools' decision to send students home within one week of the start of classes. Decisions like this are bound to make freshmen wonder whether they chose the right college. Of the students polled, 93.3% said they believe that other universities they considered attending have handled COVID-19 better than JMU. The university has done a poor job at supporting its struggling freshmen leaving them feeling ignored and isolated.

Online classes are a major struggle

for students of all ages and pose a special challenge for college freshmen as they learn to adapt to college academics. JMU is allowing classes to meet in person only if they have 50 or less students. Still, many freshmen remain completely online because of the large size of gen ed classes, which make up the majority of their schedule. However, freshmen seem to be content enough with these measures put in place as 62.2% said they plan to enroll in the upcoming semesters even if JMU

decided to keep all classes online. The remaining 37.8% reported being unsure of whether they planned to enroll or not.

One hot topic of debate surrounding online classes is whether they should cost the same as an in-person class. Online classes take away the personal connections with peers and professors that students desire to make while attending a university. Many students feel that their time spent learning online is merely teaching themselves the course material. It feels unfair to pay full price for an asynchronous class, especially when a student could just as easily learn the same material for free on the internet.

Moreover, when one invests their money into a university, they're usually paying for the overall experience they want to have, not solely academics. One respondent explained, "no sports events, parties, club meetings, etc. can be conducted safely. I have only attended one in-person class, so it is hard to make friends outside my hall."

Many of the surveyed students reported that they were feeling lonely and struggling to make friends. The only chance most freshmen have to meet new people this year is through connecting with their hall. It's "much harder to make friends," one student wrote. "[I] only can talk to the people I live with and we don't click." Another shared that they were, "unable to really enjoy a campus experience" with no friends in their dorm and all online classes. They continued, "I cancelled my

housing contract and moved back home for the semester and am doing my classes virtually."

Without social gatherings, JMU is nothing more than an online school. A large 75.6% of respondents said they feel that they haven't gotten their money's worth this year at JMU. The remaining 20% reported being unsure and just 4.4% believes they have received what they paid for.

When asked to rate their overall college experience thus far, with 1 being "very unsatisfied" and 10 being "very satisfied," the freshmen polled gave a range of scores, as low as three and no higher than eight. The average response given was a six, which bodes well for JMU. Although it's a D rating, the fact that the average stayed on the positive side of the scale is impressive in light of all the hardships this year has brought.

Nevertheless, the credit for this score doesn't belong solely to JMU, but mostly to freshmen's optimistic attitudes and perseverance. The pandemic hit this class harder than most, cutting short their senior year of high school and greatly limiting their first year in college, but their sacrifices to keep each other safe and the hope that things will get better have created a forever bond between them.

Rachel Gordon is a freshman media arts and design major. Contact Rachel at gordo3re@dukes.jmu.edu.

Of the freshmen polled...

75.6%

feel they haven't gotten their money's worth at JMU

93.3%

believe other universities handled COVID-19 better

37.8%

are unsure whether they'll enroll next semester if classes are online

46.7%

are unsure whether they would've rather taken a gap year

Many of the surveyed students reported feeling lonely and that they were struggling to make friends.



Students need more time to decide where to live. Hannah Wolff / The Breeze

KYLEE TOLAND | mindful insights



As the semester begins to wrap up, the question of housing for the next school year starts to enter many students' minds. Where they want to live, who they want to live with and how much they're willing to pay in rent are some of the questions that arise when figuring out housing, but this process is often rushed during the September-October months. This leaves students scrambling to find people to live with in a place they can afford.

In previous years, off-campus housing sends emails to current residents to re-sign early so they're able to secure a spot by the end of October. For students still living on campus, it can be more stressful because they have to figure out where they want to live based on their price range. They also have to find roommates when they're still getting to know people around their halls and campus. When they do find people to live with, the issue with negotiation pops up as well, since others may not be able to afford rent for a certain complex or want to live in a place that's more expensive.

The pandemic doesn't help this situation. Since JMU sent students home for a month in September and has been online the whole semester, it's been hard to meet people outside of residence halls. With all of this pressure to sign early and secure a place for the upcoming year, many students haven't been able to find people they'd want to live with, making the process much harder.

With this in mind, off-campus housing should stop pressuring students to sign early. Although it's understandable that these complexes want to make sure that their apartments and townhouses are filled, they

don't recognize how much stress students go through when trying to figure out housing on top of their workload. If students were given a whole semester to find people to live with and figure out their budget, then housing wouldn't be such a hassle.

Having a whole semester to figure out where one wants to live and who they want to live with eases a student's mind rather than having to rush to commit to a complex. This way, a student can meet more people and get to know them better, thus having options for roommates. They can also discuss how much they're willing to pay for a complex and determine which complex everyone can afford. Students can visit the complexes they're interested in and get a feel for what housing options are available. By the time December-January rolls around, a student should have their living situation planned out without the stress of signing earlier in the semester.

For current off-campus residents, complexes usually make students re-sign early so their spot is secure for the following year. Some students may not want to remain in their off-campus residence, which can be even more stressful for them because this means they'd have to find roommates that are willing to move to another complex as well as decide on what other housing complex they want to live in. These off-campus complexes should give current residents more time to figure out their housing situation without students feeling pressured to re-sign even if they're not satisfied with their living space.

As the time for signing and re-signing leases nears, it's important to understand that figuring out housing is stressful for students. Giving students more time to secure roommates and a place to live will make them feel less pressured and they would be able to make smart choices when determining off-campus housing.

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Thursday, October 29, 2020

Race for a cause

18th annual Beat Breast Cancer 5K runs virtually

By **MORGAN VUKNIC**
The Breeze

In 2003, Harrisonburg local Erik Dart had the idea of bringing a running event to the community from which the proceeds would go toward a charitable cause.

"With it being October and Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we wanted to tie those two together," Dart, founder and co-director of the Beat Breast Cancer 5K, said. "We also wanted our funds to stay local so the individuals can see where the money they helped raise is going."

This is the 18th year of the 5K and it's still happening but, due to COVID-19, it's virtual. From Oct. 11-31, participants can do the 5K on their own. They can walk, jog or run anywhere they want.

Although it hasn't been in person this year, there were some benefits to having a virtual race. Co-director Matt Little said the race is one of the Parks and Recreation Department's premiere events and, because of the fact that the race is virtual, the founders were able to reach more participants. There are also more out-of-state participants this year since there's no need to be in person to do the race.

"We have about half of our normal participation, which we think is pretty good for a virtual race," Little said. "The fact that it stays local and helps people who can't afford treatment, it's really important because pretty much everyone knows someone who has been affected by breast cancer, or they will in their lifetime. As a public entity, we try to serve the community and this is one of the ways for us to do that."

The funds from the race go to the Rockingham Memorial Hospital Foundation for breast cancer care in the Harrisonburg community, specifically to pay for mammograms for people who may not be able to afford them.

The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department also works directly with the hospital in regard to the race. Both care manager and breast cancer nurse navigator, Deanna Lam, and senior development consultant, Janet Wendelken, have direct ties to the race.

Lam and Wendelken work together to plan breast cancer awareness events and increase awareness about the disease to the community. Lam said she has participated in the race for the last 10 years as the breast cancer nurse navigator and has organized a team within the Sentara Funkhouser Women's Center and Breast Surgery Clinic.

"I get to see firsthand what a positive impact these

funds have for patients who do not have insurance or who are worried about how they will manage some of the barriers to care," Lam said. "All patients should have access to items [or] options for making their cancer journey a little easier. Also, it sends a message to our community that we support them and that we have an invested interest in them having positive outcomes."

Since the funds go to a local hospital, participants can see how their money has helped others. Many of the teams in the race will walk for a special person to support them.

Wendelken said that in 2019, with the help of the funds raised from the race, the RMH Foundation provided 249 mammograms for women. Forty-four had abnormal results that required additional imaging studies, five of which were recommended for biopsy and two were positive for cancer. Without the funds from the race, those women wouldn't have had the opportunity a mammogram and wouldn't have learned that they had cancer.

"Finding breast cancer and getting the appropriate treatment will most likely save a woman's life," Wendelken said.

The benefits from the race can also be seen each year as participants continue to return. Because Dart's been part of the race since the very beginning, he said he's made connections with individual participants.

He said there's one individual who sees him every year at the race and always approaches him. The 5K isn't something participants choose to do, it's something they want to do.

"I've seen the direct benefit the race has on the participants," Dart said. "You'll see a lot of the people with tears of joy, of support and of passion that have come from the race. You can see it in the individuals, in their faces."

Lam said it's apparent on race day that each participant cares deeply about the event and the cause. She said she enjoys being able to see complete strangers showing love, care and kindness toward one another while coming together for a common good.

"That is why this race is important," Wendelken said. "This race celebrates the lives of breast cancer survivors. It is more about compassion and less about competition."

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Participants can walk, jog or run a 5K. Photo illustration by Emma Connelly / The Breeze



Rob and Kim Lesniak said they still recognize the welcoming atmosphere on campus when they visit their children. Photos courtesy of the Lesniaks



The Lesniaks said they enjoy tailgating with one another.

Tradition through generations

Lesniak family keeps school spirit alive as five JMU Dukes

By **LORENA BEST**
contributing writer

Rob ('90) and Kim Lesniak ('91) met in a summer religion class on campus in 1989. This was only the beginning for one family that'd continue a legacy of five JMU Dukes.

"We kept running into each other on campus," Rob said.

They saw each other on the Quad where they spent most of their days studying and attending class. Kim could be seen studying on the Quad when the weather was nice and Rob would play pickup basketball and racquetball. Kim was an accounting major and Rob was deep in political thought.

"It was really bizarre," Kim said. "It was a lot of impromptu meetings."

Just over 30 years ago, JMU's population was around 10,000 students — half of what it is now.

"You would run into almost everybody, even if you lived on campus, either at D-hall, PC Dukes or on the Quad," Rob said.

Soon, the Lesniaks began talking and realized they had more in common than they thought. Talking turned into becoming friends, which then turned into hanging out. They soon realized they had mutual friends and started to hit it off at parties and gatherings.

Rob asked Kim to be his girlfriend during a night out on the town at JM's, most recently known as Brickhouse Tavern. But, Rob was getting ready to set off in a new direction to law school in San Antonio, Texas, after graduation and Kim was still a junior. Rob and Kim shared their plans for the next few years and Kim said her family was important to her.

The Lesniak's continued dating the summer before they went long distance for nine months. They saw each other on Thanksgiving, Christmas and their spring breaks.

"I knew it was going to be a long year, but knew I was going to be very busy because my senior year I was taking 20 and 21 credit hours," Kim said. "It was kind of a good thing we had that little bit of freedom, and I knew his first year of law school was going to be very trying as well."

They also surprised each other on visits to and from Texas. Other than conversing in person, they were able to stay in touch through phone calls and writing letters.

"Back in that day there was no texting or FaceTime," Rob said. "She would call me after 11 o'clock on evenings because the rates were cheaper."

Rob said the highlight of his day was talking to her and planning the next time they saw each other.

As time went on, Kim graduated and moved out to San Antonio to be with Rob. Kim found an accountant and office manager position for a year and a half.

"We lived out there for two years together," Kim said. "Then, when we moved back to Richmond after he graduated in '93, we decided to go ahead and get married because both of us weren't truly employed at that point."

The Lesniaks chose to get married at no other place than where they met: JMU. Their destination was the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum, which Rob said wasn't a popular wedding venue at the time.

"I called and asked how much it would be to rent out the arboretum and do a wedding

because we didn't have much money," Rob said. "The guy said it'll be \$100 to set up the chairs and take them away."

The purpose behind this decision ran in the family.

"My brother, who's eight years older, got married a few years before that at the arboretum," Kim said. "It's my favorite time of year in the fall and I knew it would be gorgeous."

Their reception was at the notorious JM's, where they first started dating. During the week, the restaurant was a place to meet up with friends, dance and party. When students weren't hanging out in the dorms, they were out on the town.

"JMU's gotten bigger and if you're wearing something with JMU on it, you'll hear somebody yell 'Go Dukes!'" Rob said.

As East Campus continued to grow, the Lesniaks' family did, too. They settled in Richmond and raised their three children there. "We stayed close to JMU when we would go to football games, and [we'll] probably go to more football games now that we have kids there," Kim said.

The Lesniaks introduced their children to JMU through their love of football.

"We tend to sit in the student section, because of the atmosphere and the energy that you get when you're sitting around all of the students and we've really missed that this year," Rob said.

When the family comes back to campus, they

said the same welcoming atmosphere is still present. They have lunch with their children, celebrate birthdays and attend homecoming football games. JMU is a home-away-from-home or a vacation that always has a certain feeling.

"The 18 to 20 year olds that go there are still saying hello, holding doors and basically being just kind people," Rob said.

After having children, Kim went back to school and enrolled in the nursing program at JMU alongside her daughter, Hannah. They're both expected to walk at graduation together in 2022.

"Service has definitely been something that we as a family have been really interested in," Hannah, one of the Lesniaks' daughters and a junior nursing major, said. "I think this was a positive way for me to follow in their footsteps, but also do my own thing."

She sees her parents spirit when walking past the old dorms that they lived in or when she remembers having picnics on the Quad as a child. JMU is also a frequent topic of conversation at home and among family friends.

"Anytime people say JMU, it means something to me," Hannah said. "All the people that I meet in these organizations are so nice and so supportive."

The Lesniaks continue to donate money toward academic scholarships and are engaged with alumni relations in Richmond, Rob's hometown.

"When I think of JMU, I think of a family," Hannah said. "The people that I meet here at JMU are my family."

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Powers from the universe



Former JMU student shares her belief in witchcraft

By **SARAH CONNOR**
The Breeze

With Halloween approaching, students are embracing and celebrating the supernatural, but there are some who see it as not just a holiday, but a way of life. Hannah Culverhouse, a former JMU student, practices witchcraft every day. She said she reads tarot cards, collects too many crystals to count, makes moon water and communicates with spirits.

Culverhouse was a freshman computer science, later turned geology, major at JMU in 2017. Other students at the time might've known her as the campus witch. At a single glance, nothing about her appearance hints at her beliefs, aside from some uniquely shaped rings on her hands. She identifies herself as a pagan and a witch, working with a balance of energies. Some sought out her powers, including those in the Hillside lounge waiting in lines for her to give them tarot card readings.

"One of my friends said that they would always come true," Coleson Hill, a junior biology major who lived in Hillside with Culverhouse, said.

Culverhouse said she's been doing tarot readings since she turned 17 after her mother gave her a long-forgotten tarot deck she had bought on a whim.

"Traditionally, your first deck is supposed to be gifted to you," she said while grabbing an orange drawstring bag full of cards from eight other decks on the table. "This is just my oldest friend. It's accurate. It's familial because it's been with me like my whole life."

Culverhouse said that tarot decks choose their witches. Each deck has its own personality and it's important for a witch to connect with it to receive accurate readings. There are 72 cards in each deck and it's up to the witch to interpret their meanings, she said.

She roughly shuffled, allowing cards to fly onto the sofa cushion, putting them into

place within her spread of three by three while mumbling, "OK ... OK yeah ... uh huh. Oh OK girl, alright..."

Realizations dawned on her face as she drew each new card. It was all good news. Along with her tarot reading abilities, many female students sought her out for assistance with romantic interests. She'd make them a sachet to carry and help with their situation.

"I have these little knitted sachets and I would throw in a couple crystals and then I would write some kind of affirmation or spell on a piece of paper," Culverhouse said. "I would tie it up with yarn and use knot magic and put it in the sachet and tie up the sachet and give it to the girl and say, 'Alright, carry this around in your backpack, your purse, wherever, carry it with you.' About a week later, they'd come back and return it and said, 'Oh my god, it worked — thank you!'"

Culverhouse said there was also an instance when she put a minor bad luck spell on a roommate who'd been unkind to her roommate, freshman Madison McAleese.

"She goes, 'I got this,'" McAleese said, attempting to imitate Culverhouse's voice as she told the story. "[She] starts writing a bunch of sigils [symbols] on a piece of notebook paper and writes the girl's name at the top and goes and marches out of the room and tapes it to her door. That was a good little prank."

Besides that, Culverhouse said she doesn't do many spells since they never seem to work for her, and her main focus is working with her deities. Deities are beings that some witches communicate with and worship, and the deity is unique to each witch. Culverhouse's witchcraft journey began with an archangel summoning, and her experience during it showed her that witchcraft must be real.

She said that in high school, she faced East and summoned four archangels around her. She summoned them one at a time and said to each, "Give me guidance and protect me from negative entities."



Culverhouse used to do full moon rituals at 4 a.m. on JMU's campus. Photo courtesy of Hannah Culverhouse

"So, we finished chanting the first little thing and we felt this warmth," Culverhouse said. "It felt like a furnace was there and we had this candle. I remember it very clearly: it was [the] middle of summer and there was no wind, the A.C. was off, the window was closed, no fan, nothing, and the candle was freaking out and we felt this warmth."

About a week later, a small stone of citrine appeared on her dresser. Her mother claimed to have found it in her pants pocket.

"Turns out citrine is [archangel] Gabriel's crystal, so I like to say that he brought it to me and it's my lucky charm for when I need extra luck or I'm scared," Culverhouse said.

Later, she said she began to work with Loki and Hades and talked about the deities like old friends. She said Loki is a "firebug," Gabriel likes fruit punch lollipops and Hades likes keys. In her room, each of the deities has an altar made up of offerings from Culverhouse. She said she can communicate with them through what she calls a "god-phone," from which she can hear them speaking to her in her mind.

"I kind of like to view it as the universe created all these little sorts of local gods for different areas, just created all these little gods to help take care of the world because the world needs a lot of help," Culverhouse said.

She's since left JMU and lives at home, spending time between her mother's and father's houses while attending college online. Her mother is Baptist and sometimes struggles with understanding her relationships with other beings.

"4:44!" Culverhouse said out of nowhere, directing her gaze to the clock on her stovetop.

"I kind of like to view it as the universe created all these little sorts of local gods for different areas, just created all these little gods to help take care of the world because the world needs a lot of help."

Hannah Culverhouse
The "campus witch"

"444 basically means you're on the right path, you're doing something right, your angels are taking you in the right direction."

Culverhouse said she receives signs through repeating numbers, finding feathers, ringing in her ears and songs. She's also a believer in crystals and the power of the full moon. She could be found on Hillside field on the night of every full moon charging her crystals and creating moon water during her freshman year.

"Every full moon she would go out at 4 a.m. and do a little ritual," Hill said. "In the middle of the field with a blanket laid out and a bunch of crystals. I knew if she was doing that at 4 a.m. she genuinely believed it."

When asked how many crystals she had, Culverhouse said, "I'm a witch and a geology major. There's no telling."

Culverhouse thinks that most misconceptions about witchcraft come from fear and lack of education. Most witchcraft isn't

dangerous or evil, and every witch has their own interpretations. She said she's happy to see that with spirituality and witchcraft becoming more of a societal trend, people have become more open to her beliefs and she's been able to find more common ground with others.

"Witchcraft is kind of like, realizing that you have the power to ask the universe to give you certain things," Culverhouse said. "It's just realizing that you have the power to change certain things and make things your own."

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JMU football began practicing for its spring season Oct. 15. Photos by Tristan Lorei / The Breeze

By NOAH ZIEGLER
The Breeze

Redshirt junior linebacker Diamonte Tucker-Dorsey burst out of the doors of the Plecker Athletic Performance Center and yelled out in joy. It was the mark of the beginning of practices in preparation for a peculiar football year after a whirlwind offseason.

This year, the offseason is longer. It's been filled with more uncertainty than a quarterback controversy and will continue to be a day-to-day process until the FCS Championship game set for May.

Most FCS teams are gearing up for "fall camp." Universities like Central Arkansas and The Citadel scheduled and played games this fall but will still be eligible to compete in the spring. With squads at various levels of preparation, these preseason camps will be vital in determining the top teams of FCS football.

JMU wanted to be in the mix of FCS programs playing this fall but couldn't lock down opponents. Now, the Dukes are preparing for a spring season that'll see a six-game CAA schedule with two non-conference opponents.

It's already confirmed JMU will host Robert Morris — and Dukes' head coach Curt Cignetti said it's close to securing its second opponent — but even without a solidified schedule, the team remains focused on what it can control, and that's making sure players are prepared for what they'll face come February.

"I think we're on schedule, we've made a lot of progress," Cignetti said. "We've got young guys developing, we're practicing closer to how we wanna practice. It's not always perfect, but I think we've improved every day defensively, offensively and on special teams."

The Dukes have lost key players like defensive linemen Ron'Dell Carter and John Daka as well as quarterback Ben DiNucci and wide receivers Brandon Polk and Riley Stapleton. They also lost defensive back D'Angelo Amos and defensive lineman Adeeb Atariwa to the transfer portal,

with both now at UVA.

Amos and Atariwa departed because of the uncertainty that surrounded FCS football as the season approached, but the CAA is set to complete a regular season in the spring and culminate with the FCS playoffs in May.

"I was excited that we were gonna get a shot at a season," senior offensive lineman Liam Fornadel said. "With all the uncertainty that was around the fall season, and even the spring season, I was just excited that we were gonna be able to practice, go out there, work out, keep doing what we've been doing. I'm really looking forward to what the spring has for us."

So far, Fornadel said practice has been similar to previous years. The focus is making

"It's one of our goals [to win] the conference, winning the national championship ... I'd probably say, honestly, our only goals, really."

Liam Fornadel
Senior offensive lineman

sure incoming freshmen and underclassmen are smoothly acclimating to college football. Overall, though, the team is focusing on the details and intricacies of the playbook while staying consistent on the field.

On the opposing side of Fornadel's position group, the defensive line is looking to fill the gap left by impact players Carter and Daka. Redshirt sophomore Abi N-Okonji transferred from Minnesota and is expected to slot into a significant role, while players like redshirt sophomore Antonio Colclough and redshirt junior Isaac Ukwu — who's returning from injury — are hoping to earn their way into

Spring fever

JMU football kicks off fall practice ahead of its 2021 spring season



Coaches and staff are required to wear masks or face shields at practice.

consistent game time.

"I think we're molding together really good," senior defensive lineman Mike Greene said. "We lost, definitely, a lot of talent on the defensive line with [Atariwa] leaving this year and moving down the road. But we've had a lot of people step up. A lot of young guys, a lot of guys that've been here for a long time but have been waiting for their spot to open up."

Cignetti said he's pleased with the development of the younger players on the team. He added that this season, depth is more crucial because if a player tests positive for the coronavirus, multiple players could miss the game because of contact tracing and quarantine rules.

However, despite the new guidelines like coaching staff and personnel needing masks or face shields, Cignetti said once the players cross the white lines and step onto the field, things aren't any different. That could be key in preparing for another season, even if it isn't in the fall. The biggest alterations have come with meetings, as they've shifted to either online or in a room big enough to allow social distancing.

As for the underclassmen trying to get their breakthrough moment, the offensive line is a spot of opportunity. With the departures of Mac Patrick and Jaheer Jackson, critical positions need to be filled.

"I've liked what I've seen as they progress throughout the days, throughout the practices,"

Fornadel said. "They've really shown the effort to come in and continuously [work] on getting better. As a lot of freshmen do, there's a long way to go, but it's good to see them willing to better themselves and compete."

The conference unveiled its two-division format Tuesday, with teams playing six games each. So far, Towson is the only school to opt out of the spring season, but no other school has indicated they'll follow suit.

"I feel confident that everybody else is solid in terms of their commitment to play," Cignetti said. "We're really looking forward to the spring season."

Coaches and players are now preparing for what's expected to be another trophy-contending season in Harrisonburg. With new faces eager to make statements and power through unfamiliar times, it adds another level of eagerness for players who yearn to run onto the field and compete once again.

"It's huge, you know," Fornadel said. "It's one of our goals [to win] the conference, winning the national championship are two of this team's biggest goals. I'd probably say, honestly, our only goals, really. It's what this program's been built on. It's our tradition."

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Sophomore forward Dennis Mensah beats out Hofstra junior midfielder George O'Malley. Courtesy of JMU Athletics

DETERMINED

JMU men's soccer Dennis Mensah succeeds on the field, despite limited minutes

By **ANDREW OLIVEROS**
The Breeze

JMU sophomore forward Dennis Mensah had an impressive freshman campaign for the men's soccer team last season. He only played 454 minutes and made two starts, but he scored four goals from eight shots, earning the team's highest shots-on-goal percentage at .800.

"I scored four goals ... when I self-reflect on how, like, I usually play, I don't think I played, like, well enough to like my standard," Mensah said.

Mensah noted that it's all practice when it comes to him getting the ball to the goal so often. He said after training sessions last season, the team took turns to shoot the ball numerous times.

"I love attacking," Mensah said. "Like, I want to score every single game. So, like, as soon as I get the ball, I want to go straight into the goal."

Mensah said that last season, he didn't have much confidence, but this year he knows the team. Mensah said he wants to improve his record from last season.

"As a striker, your job is to score every single game and try to help [teammates] attack as much as you can," Mensah said. "What I try to do [is] support my teammates, like hold a play, like make runs through the box, just crosses [and] goals. And I really [want to] improve on what I did last year and probably have the highest scoring by the time I leave JMU."

JMU redshirt senior forward Carson Jeffris said Mensah is reserved and quiet, but when his teammates get to know him, he opens up and makes witty comments that'll make the team chuckle, and his true personality will show.

"He's a very dynamic and athletic player, and he sometimes can bring a little bit of a spark just because he has that quick little burst and that quick little flash of brilliance," Jeffris said. "When he [gets] on the ball, he just would maybe drop a shoulder, have a quick touch and then have a shot."

Jeffris said last season, Mensah would take meaningful shots while he was on the field, but he wouldn't shoot for the sake of it. Jeffris said that if this season is

played in the spring, Mensah can add his athleticism to help the team.

"He speaks when he feels necessary, and I think also you can see that with his play," Jeffris said. "He'll do things that he thinks [are] necessary. He can stretch the game for us very well. He can go at people 1 v. 1, and that's something that at JMU we've not always had ... a player that can actually drive at people and get defenders on their heels."

JMU men's soccer head coach Paul Zazenski said last season, Mensah contributed solid minutes and solid contributions statistically with goals and shots on frame percentages. Zazenski said he's pleased with Mensah's progression, especially because he did this as a freshman.

"He contributed to a good team and helped us win, something that not every freshman gets to say in their rookie campaign," Zazenski said. "He gave us glimpses of who we think he can be moving forward. We're looking for him to be consistent as we move forward within the four years of him being a part of the program."

Zazenski said Mensah could improve in reading situations both offensively and defensively and knowing where to be in JMU's gameplan. Zazenski added he doesn't think it's easy for young players to instantly pick up on the technical things he's looking for, which is why a lot of young players don't play often.

"For Dennis, he has all of the physical capabilities," Zazenski said. "He's just a very natural soccer player. It comes easy to him in certain fashions of the game and certain elements of the game. He's very, very coachable, and everything that we've said to him, he's listened and applied, and we're confident that he'll get better and better each season."

Mensah may have the opportunity to create an even bigger spark for his team if soccer is played this spring, and it seems like he'll be up for the challenge.

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Cross country freshmen adjust to athletics during uncertain times

By **JENNIFER GAROFOLLO**
contributing writer

Four freshmen have been added to the JMU cross country roster this year, and they're ready to race. Despite the unknown conditions surrounding the season, these student-athletes are working on improving the team by motivating each other.

It's a major decision to participate in a sport at the collegiate level because it requires an immense amount of dedication. Additionally, the reason why student-athletes choose their college varies. Freshman Cora Smith that explains the coaches and atmosphere were the main reasons why she chose JMU. "The coaches made a big impact on me and my decision," Smith said. "It's important to have a good relationship with your coaches and enjoy who you are going to be seeing for the rest of your four years at college."

The transition for the four young runners to collegiate level cross country has been an adjustment, but it's easier with the help from their coaches, trainers and teammates. Miranda Stanhope, one of the new additions to the JMU team, compared her high school and the JMU facilities and how the differences affected her progression to Division I athletics.

"I went to a pretty small high school, and I didn't have the same resources as I do now, which has been a major change for me," Stanhope said. "Senior year of

high school I worked on increasing my mileage, so college level cross country wouldn't be as much of a shock."

The JMU cross country program has aided the freshmen's goals and helped their shift to the collegiate level by providing ample amounts of training and individualized workouts. Freshman Rachel Mayberry's confidence in her athletic ability has already increased in the short amount of time in the program. "[The JMU cross country program] has been building me up and helping with my confidence a lot," Mayberry said. Freshman Mary Milby said that because the rest of the season is unpredictable, it's difficult to set short-term goals. She isn't sure what her long-term goals are either. Her main priority is to continue setting personal records.

"It's hard to say what my goals are for my whole collegiate career," Milby said. "But

this year I want to set the tone for the rest of my career at JMU."

Despite the growth in individual confidence and progress, the team has struggled with bonding because of current COVID-19 restrictions. At the beginning of the season, the team would practice and work out in small groups.

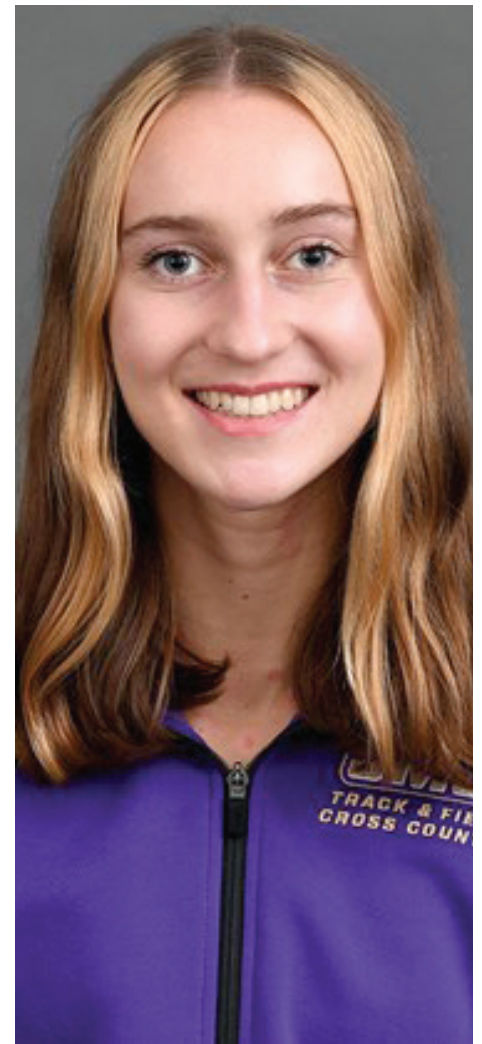
However, they're slowly shifting to full-team activities.

"We are slowly becoming closer as a team," Smith said. "And starting to see each other at practice in bigger groups. We'll get there, but right now we're still estranged."

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Freshman cross country runner Cora Smith.
Courtesy of JMU Athletics



Freshman cross country runner Miranda Stanhope
Courtesy of JMU Athletics



Freshman cross country runner Mary Milby.
Courtesy of JMU Athletics



Freshman cross country runner Rachel Mayberry
Courtesy of JMU Athletics

The big reveal

JMU unveils its 2021 spring football schedule, to face two non-conference opponents

Sports desk

JMU football's schedule for the 2021 spring season is set. JMU Athletics announced Tuesday the eight-game slate that includes two non-conference opponents.

With the CAA's updated spring slate, each team will play six conference games — a home-and-away series with three other teams — and they can schedule up to two non-conference opponents.

"I think it is a great schedule," JMU head coach Curt Cignetti said. "How often do you get to play six rivalry games in one year? Our players will be excited to play, and five home games will be a bonus for the entire JMU Nation!"

In their non-conference games, the Dukes will take on Robert Morris on Feb. 20 and Morehead State on Feb. 27. Both the

Colonials and Eagles are teams JMU has previously faced. The Dukes and Robert Morris played once in 2018, which ended in a 73-7 trouncing in favor of JMU.

Against Morehead State, the Dukes have a 7-2 advantage in the all-time series. Most recently, JMU defeated the Eagles in 2017, 80-7. The last time Morehead State beat the Dukes was in 1986, where MSU won 27-24.

In the CAA, JMU will face Elon, Richmond and William & Mary. The Dukes will travel to face the Phoenix to begin their conference slate, then will host William & Mary and Richmond in Harrisonburg. Following the two-game home stretch are two away games versus the Tribe and Spiders before the Dukes return to Bridgeforth for the season finale against Elon.

CONTACT the sports desk at breezesports@gmail.com. For more coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

2021 CAA South Division



Logos courtesy of each respective school's athletics communications.

Full schedule (subject to change)
vs. Morehead State (2/20)
vs. Robert Morris (2/27)
at Elon (3/6)
vs. William & Mary (3/13)
vs. Richmond (3/20)
at William & Mary (3/27)
at Richmond (4/3)
vs. Elon (4/10)



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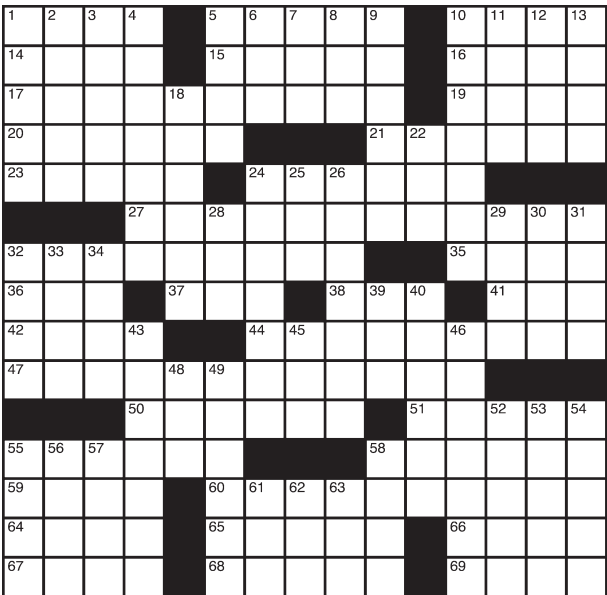
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 "Come Undone": Wally Lamb novel
 - 5 They're on the house
 - 10 Sty fare
 - 14 Guinness logo
 - 15 Extra rival
 - 16 Info on a blood donor card
 - 17 Anger at progress?
 - 19 Writer Blyton
 - 20 See 56-Down
 - 21 Tops
 - 23 Move laterally
 - 24 Human being, for one
 - 27 Embezzlements?
 - 32 Did not participate
 - 35 All-star game side
 - 36 Rank above maj.
 - 37 Place for a mineral scrub
 - 38 U.N. workers' rights gp.
 - 41 ___ chi
 - 42 Amman native
 - 44 National Storytelling Festival VIP
 - 47 Bills' places?
 - 50 Flora and fauna of different regions
 - 51 Prepares, as leftovers
 - 55 Some colas
 - 58 "Groovy!"
 - 59 National gemstone of Australia
 - 60 EMT assignment?
 - 64 Apply with a tube, as frosting
 - 65 Down source
 - 66 Curved molding
 - 67 Whole bunch
 - 68 Chic, to a Brit
 - 69 Challenge for the cleaning staff
- DOWN**
- 1 They might be icebreakers
 - 2 Asian capital on the Red River
 - 3 Flubbed a play
 - 4 Drew attention to
 - 5 Buffalo Bill Museum city
 - 6 Two-time Art Ross Trophy winner Bobby
 - 7 Deg. offered at Duke's Fuqua School
 - 8 Pua of "Moana," e.g.
 - 9 Cooks in a bamboo basket
 - 10 Metal marble
 - 11 Forest cat
 - 12 Ryan Hurst's "Sons of Anarchy" role
 - 13 Sidewalk traffic, for short
 - 18 Sports venues
 - 22 Fox foot
 - 24 Mosque tower
 - 25 Drink suffix
 - 26 Docs
 - 28 Sample
 - 29 Cracker topper
 - 30 Old Testament twin
 - 31 Recipe verb
 - 32 Dark purple berry
 - 33 First word of two Springsteen album titles
 - 34 Balkan native
 - 39 Salmon cured in brine
 - 40 Like some city streets
 - 43 "Cool Runnings" vehicle
 - 45 Court org.
 - 46 Russia, until 1917
 - 48 Son of a son
 - 49 Guarantee, as a loan
 - 52 Nice red
 - 53 Silences with a button
 - 54 Lid woes
 - 55 Bursts
 - 56 With 20-Across, Homer's medium
 - 57 Dad
 - 58 Glenn of The Eagles
 - 61 New prefix
 - 62 Bush in Florida
 - 63 Port letters



By Michael A. Macdonald

10/29/20

B STUMPED?

FIND THE ANSWERS ONLINE

WWW.BREEZEJMU.ORG/SITE/CROSSWORD_ANSWERS/

5	9						7	
8	2		1			3		5
2				3				4
		5	2	6	4	7		
7				9				1
6		2			8		4	9
	4						8	7

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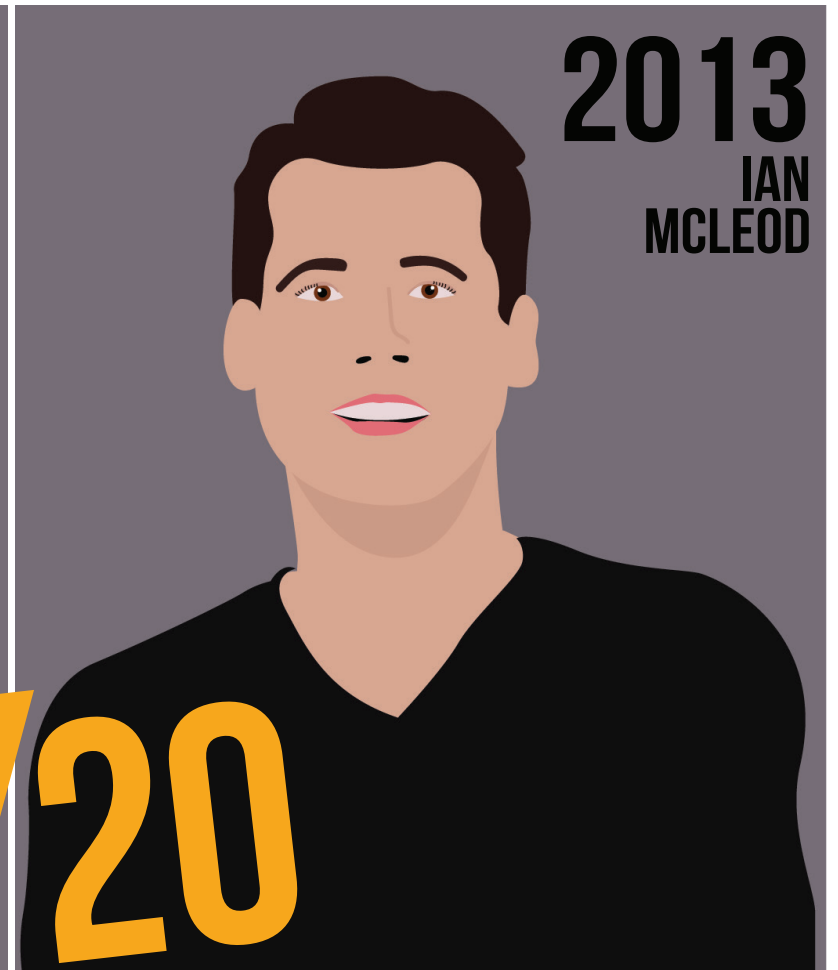
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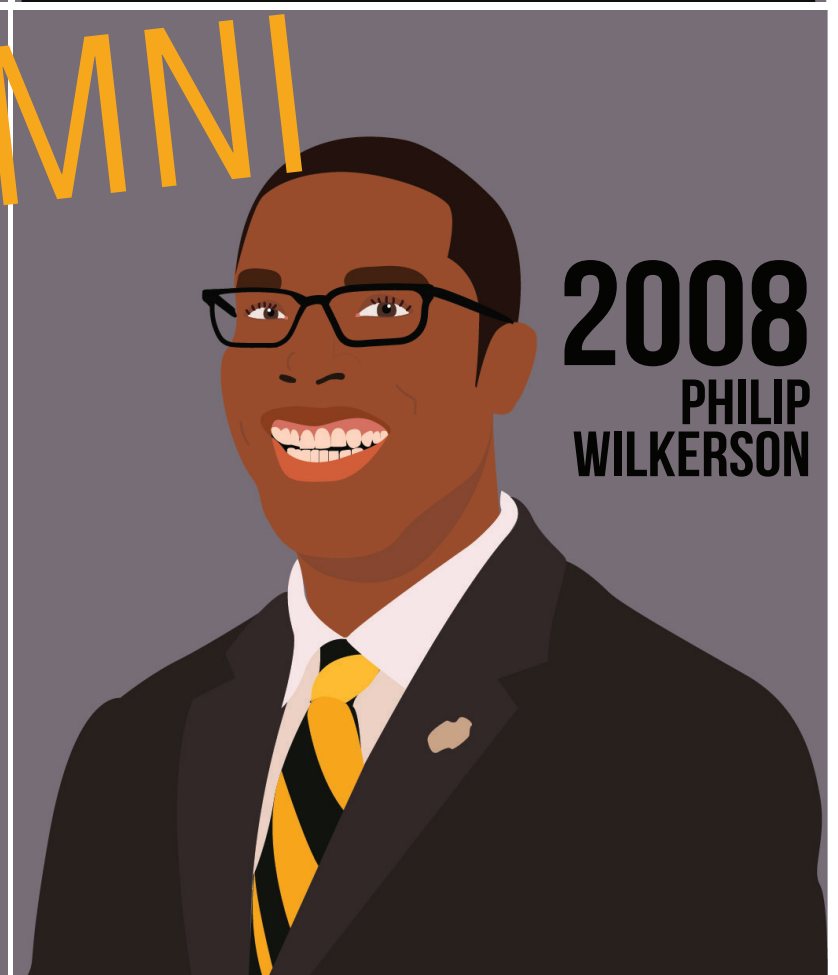
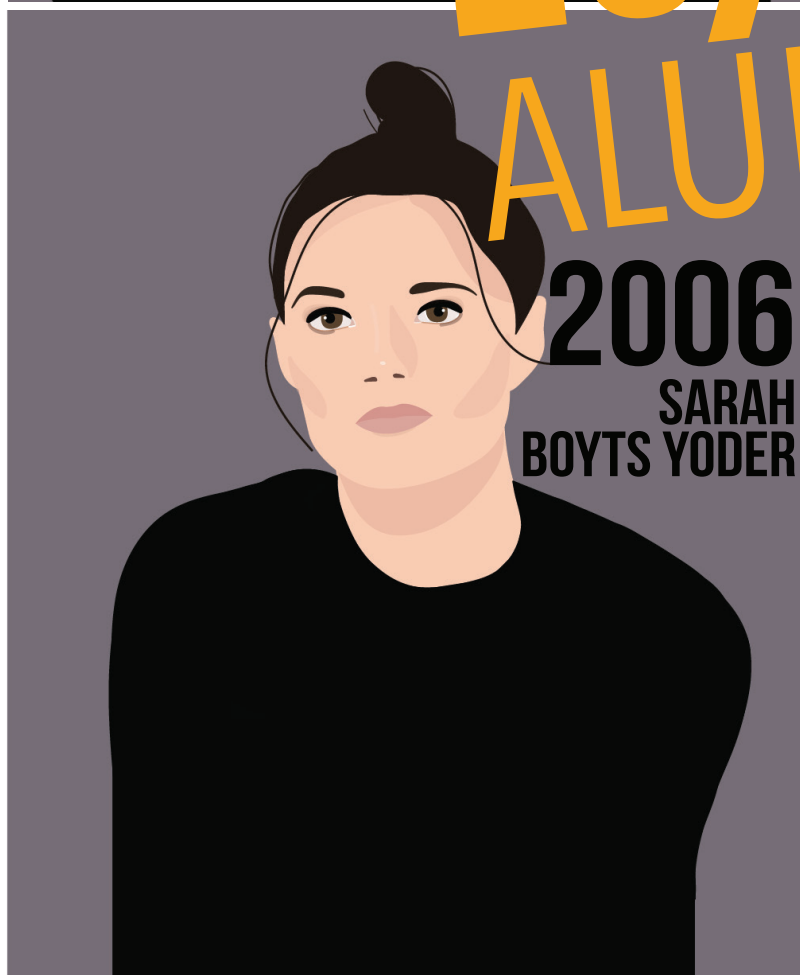
The Breeze

JMU'S AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1922

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20/20
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WHAT'S INSIDE

BEHIND THE COVER: It's no secret Homecoming looks different this year. So, in this special edition there are 20 alumni featured for their post-graduation accomplishments.

- 04 A walk through of award-winning alumni
- 06 Former media arts and design major empowers women of color with her talent
- 12 Alumna with a passion for art pursues dream career
- 15 Alumnus' musical success allows for engaging conversations back in the 'burg
- 18 Have fun and stay safe for this one-of-a-kind Homecoming experience
- 20 History major turned podcast star – this alum has something to say

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Bethe change

Stroll down memory lane and learn about the achievements of some of JMU's most notable alumni

Courtesy of the Alumni Association

Every year since 1977, the Alumni Association has given one alumni the Ronald Carrier Alumni Achievement Award, which highlights those who have made "significant achievements" to society.

Here's a list of award recipients from JMU's Alumni Association:

Sarah Lemmon

For Sarah Lemmon ('34) the undergraduate experience was just the beginning of her academic career. Lemmon earned a B.S. in foreign languages, literatures and cultures from JMU and continued on to earn an M.A. in American history from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in American history and social and intellectual history from the University of North Carolina.

Beverly McGinnis Lowe

Beverly McGinnis Lowe studied hospitality and tourism management at Madison College and went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Iowa. Lowe was a school and district nutrition manager in Richmond, Virginia, for six years and in Hampton, Virginia, for 19 years.

Through her consulting group, Beverly Lowe and Associates, this Madison grad works with schools and training services to promote nutrition education.

Dedicating her life to the field of dietetics, Lowe served as national president of the School Nutrition Association, the first female president of the International Food Service Executives Association, chair of DPG42 American Dietetic Association and was a registered dietician for Certified Food Executives.

Margaret Moore

After becoming a physical therapist in 1943, Margaret Moore ('42) taught at the Medical College of Virginia (now VCU), the University of Colorado (Denver) and the University of Wisconsin. She developed the first physical therapy clinical program at North Carolina Hospital in 1952 and served as chief of the department until 1954. From 1957 to 1974 Moore was director of the Division of Physical Therapy. Moore also served as an educational consultant on the APTA staff and was later elected as first vice president and secretary of APTA.

Gill Hanlon

Gill Temple Hanlon inspired thousands of students with her passion for education.

After all, a good teacher is one who loves teaching and teaches her students to love learning.

After earning a B.S. in education from Madison College, Hanlon taught at schools throughout Virginia and Florida from 1951 to 1995. In 1975 she received the Outstanding Secondary Teacher of America award. She later was twice named Teacher of the Year (1981 and 1990), and was recognized on the "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" list in 1996.

Garnet Owen

After graduating from the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg, Garnet worked as a social worker in New York City, where she also attended Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary. Following a period of teaching English and social studies at various schools in Virginia, Garnet earned her master's in sociology and English from Duke University (1943). After teaching in Massachusetts, she was a lecturer of English at the University of Southern California from 1946 to 1949.

Garnet spent four years in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) with her husband, who was under Fulbright and United Nations auspices. During this time she lectured

at women's clubs and U.S. Information Services throughout the country. She's the author of three volumes of poetry, all of which received favorable reviews throughout the world. Her second volume, *Grapes on the Moon*, was published in East Pakistan. Garnet was the first American poet to be published in the country.

Dorothy Harris

Dorothy Harris was a pioneer in sport psychology, a role model for all women involved in sports and an inspiring educator. It all started at Madison College, where Harris earned her degree in kinesiology and was a member of the basketball, field hockey, swimming and tennis teams.

With a desire to teach others, Harris became a professor at Penn State University, where she developed one of the first graduate programs in sport psychology. Harris was the first American and first woman to become a member of the International Society of Sport Psychology. She was also the first recipient of the Women's Sport Foundation's award for contribution to women in sport, and organized the first research conference on women in sport in 1972.

8 **HOMECOMING**

EVENTS TO BE SURE TO ATTEND

☐ **Tie-Dye Kickoff & Fight Song T-Shirt Day**
Nov. 2 | 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Hillside Field & Festival Lawn

*Registration is required to attend to ensure social distancing measures

☐ **Chat & Chew: University Updates**
Nov. 2 | 12:00 - 1:30 PM | Zoom

☐ **Scavenger Hunt**
Nov. 3 | Hunt begins at 8 AM | Various Locations

☐ **B(l)ack in the Days**
Nov. 4 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM | Zoom

☐ **Learn with the Lavenders**
Nov. 5 | 7:30 PM | Zoom

☐ **Duke Dog Dash**
Nov. 6, 6 a.m. to Nov. 7 6 p.m. | Your HOMETown

☐ **Back to Class: Faculty Talks**
Nov 6, 5-6 p.m. | Nov. 7, 3-4 p.m. | Zoom

☐ **"Home-gating" Cooking Class**
Nov. 7 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM | Zoom

For more information visit: alumni.jmu.edu/homecoming



Since leaving JMU, Brabham has worked in both corporate and freelance settings. Courtesy of Mia Brabham

“I didn’t want to spend my whole life creating content for other people. I went to school for creative writing because it was something I could do freelance while building my own content. So I started freelance writing and now I am on this freelance journey ... I’m really putting my degree to use in every single way possible.”

Mia Brabham
JMU alumna ('16)

Alumna works in various media positions and gives back to community

By **SYDNEY DUDLEY**
The Breeze

When the COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm, many people felt lost as businesses and schools closed and death rates began to rise. However, Mia Brabham, a JMU alumna ('16), found a way to give back during quarantine through her passion for writing.

Brabham majored in media arts and design with a concentration in digital video and cinema and earned a minor in creative writing. Since leaving Harrisonburg, she’s used her degree in both corporate and freelance settings while maintaining an active social media presence on Instagram and Twitter.

After graduating from JMU, she worked in Washington D.C. with Monumental Sports and Entertainment for a year. Brabham was then accepted into the NBC page program where she worked in a variety of roles for a year in LA.

After completing the program, Brabham joined the marketing team of a small documentary company. However, she soon discovered a desire to produce content for herself and shifted to freelance work.

“I didn’t want to spend my whole life creating content for other people,” Brabham said. “I went to school for creative writing because it was something I could do freelance

while building my own content. So I started freelance writing and now I am on this freelance journey. I’ve picked up odd jobs like designing websites for people, and I’m really putting my degree to use in every single way possible.”

When the pandemic hit, Brabham lost some of her freelance gigs and decided to pursue one of her lifelong dreams: writing a book. She drew inspiration from a note started on her phone back when she was a student in 2013.

“I was a sophomore at JMU when I started a note on my phone that was brief life lesson sentences,” Brabham said. “I wouldn’t force it, but as I would walk to class or down the street and have realizations, I would write them down, little clips that came to my head.”

Her book, “Notes to Self,” was released in June 2020. On her website, Brabham describes it as “a private diary of moments in time, a collection of personal lessons, an assemblage of knowledge from a girl who knows nothing, really, but might know a thing or two.”

While the book was a passion project for Brabham, she also wanted to use it as an opportunity to give back. She conducted research on nonprofits and came across Girls For A Change, an organization based in Richmond, Virginia that empowers young women of color in middle and high schools.

"I spoke with the founder and said I wanted to give them the first week of profits from my book," Brabham said. "I am developing a scholarship with them that will be awarded to some of the girls next year."

Two of Brabham's former professors, Alexander Leidholdt and Jay Varner, said they reflect fondly on their experiences with her and are amazed by her accomplishments both in school and after graduating.

Leidholdt said he recalled that as a freshman, Brabham lobbied to be in a section of his SMAD 150 course when it was full. She presented a strong argument that ultimately persuaded him to grant the override.

"I tried to discourage her from taking the class because it was full, but her will was very strong, stronger than mine," Leidholdt said. "I do not regret my decision [to let her into my SMAD 150 class]. I think it's one of the best decisions I've ever made because I had the opportunity to get to know Mia."

Leidholdt praised Brabham's writing skills and communication abilities, citing her talents at working with a variety of mediums and technologies.

"She's terrific with new communication technologies and social media," Leidholdt said. "She's a really talented writer and producer and she's great on camera, too. I have a really high opinion of what her future will amount to."

Varner recalled Brabham's active participation in class as well as her compassion for her fellow Dukes.

"The first memory that comes to mind when I think of Mia in class was how dynamic she was as a student," Varner said. "Other students were so drawn to her because she is someone who is so passionate and caring and empathetic to others."

Varner said he's amazed at how much Brabham has accomplished since graduating only a few years ago.

"She's like the queen of media," Varner said. "You look at all of the things Mia has undertaken in terms of mediums, and it's really impressive. To be as young as she is and to have accomplished so much, she's just getting started. I can't wait to see what happens after this."



CONTACT Sydney Dudley at dudleysl@dukes.jmu.edu.

Brabham worked in Washington, D.C. with Monumental Sports and Entertainment for a year after graduating. Courtesy of Mia Brabham



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REWIND 365

One year ago, JMU defeated Towson 27 - 10

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A defender tackled a Towson opponent during the Homecoming game. Breeze File Photos



Cornerback Rashad Robinson ran onto the field with the Dukes at the start of the 2019 Homecoming game against Towson.

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Wide receiver Riley Stapleton (left) stood with his teammates after defeating Towson.
Breeze File Photos



Running backs Solomon Vanhorse (left) and Jawon Hamilton (right) celebrate together after the game.



Fans celebrated by throwing streamers after a JMU touchdown.



Quarterback Ben DiNucci charged down the field during the game against Towson.



Wide receiver Riley Stapleton fell in the end zone for a touchdown.



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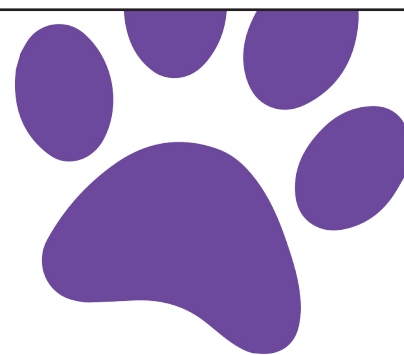


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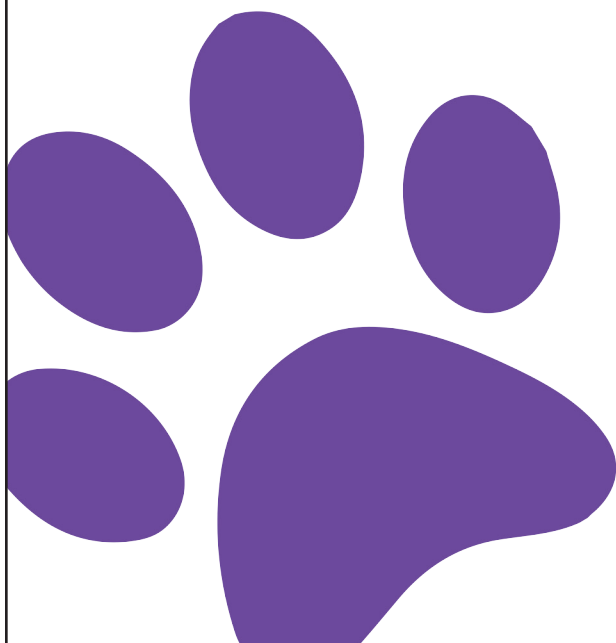
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Yoder is using a small shed in her backyard as a studio during quarantine. Photo Courtesy of Sarah Boyts Yoder

Alumna paints outside the lines

Sarah Boyts Yoder develops abstract style in JMU graduate program

By **JEAN LUTHER**
The Breeze

Often playing “painting show” in the kitchen with her sister, Sarah Boyts Yoder ('06) developed a love for art and painting from an early age.

“I was always so lucky to have good teachers along the way,” Yoder said. “That includes high school and undergrad, and at JMU.”

Yoder, an abstract artist, finished her Master of Fine Arts in painting at JMU in 2006. While studying under various professors, she said she grew fully into her style of work.

Yoder has been featured in numerous exhibitions and publications throughout the nation. In 2014, she was awarded a professional fellowship in painting from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and in 2019, she received her first international exhibition in Sydney, Australia.

“I was always really drawn to abstract painting especially,” Yoder said. “I think I was just really comfortable with not knowing exactly what it was. The ambiguity of it not being nailed down, I was fine with that. I enjoyed it actually.”

Yoder said abstract art can be hard because she knows not everyone feels the same way and many may feel uncomfortable or not understand it.

“I couldn’t of said this when I was younger, but I think that abstraction is actually closer to reality than realism,” Boytes Yoder said.

To Yoder, all art, including realism, is a

vehicle for sensitivity, and connection and beauty. She said she often draws inspiration from her everyday life with her kids and fuses the immersive experience of being a mother with her work.

“I like how abstraction can pull in more things from the real world,” Yoder said. “Like synthesize emotions and it can really elevate the everyday things and ground the things that feel so big.”

When Yoder was studying at JMU, she worked mainly within studio hours to develop her style and work on pieces she chose to create. It was more than just a curriculum; the students made their own schedules and were independent.

“At the time, the graduate program was small,” Yoder said. “It was like the best of both worlds because you had access to big, nice facilities and a large group of professors, and it was a small enough program to get to know the other members in the cohort.”

Kenneth Szmagaj, a retired JMU art professor, worked with Yoder and was both her professor and mentor.

“My philosophy is to help [the students] find their originality and to see them as individuals and meet whatever their needs are to get to that point,” Szmagaj said.

Yoder spent most of her hours in the graduate program working in the studio on various pieces so she could later meet with professors and peers to get feedback on her work.

“She had a beautiful way of drawing freely and spontaneously,” Szmagaj said. “She was a little

cautious, but she grew in her confidence and her willingness to ‘flounder’ and make mistakes and fail, and out of that process, she developed a greater range of possibilities and authority in her work.”

After graduation, she began incorporating symbols into her art. She had little kids who she would often read children’s books to or watch cartoons with, and she said she liked the playfulness, cleverness, color, shape and form in these things. She realized she wanted them in her painting.

“I would take those pieces into the studio and start repeating those shapes, and I had one or two in particular that I really stuck with,” Yoder said. “As I just started repeating them so often, they really started to take on a life of their own.”

The symbols that Yoder constantly returned to became the vocabulary she’d use within her pieces. By using the constant shapes and symbols within her work, she said it’s like “improvising within a structure.”

On Oct. 23, Yoder was invited to showcase her art at an event hosted by a local Charlottesville wine shop called Wine and Art. Yoder was featured with two other local artists.

Reginald Leonard, the co-organizer of the Wine and Community event hosted by the Market Street Wine Shop, was previously on the board of New City Arts for three years. He said he’s not an artist by trade, but is a self-professed lover of art.

According to Leonard, Market Street Wine

Shop reached out to him to collaborate on a series that could happen on a virtual platform to recreate a sense of community within the city during the pandemic.

“I’m personally just aesthetically a fan of Sarah’s work,” Leonard said. “Her work is clearly serious and intentional, but it is definitely cohesive as well and you can tell that her work has an identity to it.”

Currently, due to COVID-19, Yoder has been working from home where she created a smaller studio in a shed in her backyard. She’s working on a series made in quarantine, part of which is called “Frequencies.”

“I imagined people walking around with these light waves or sound waves,” Yoder said. “They’re rhythmic and steady and warm.”

Yoder related these feelings to the world around her, whether it was in a person, an object or in nature.

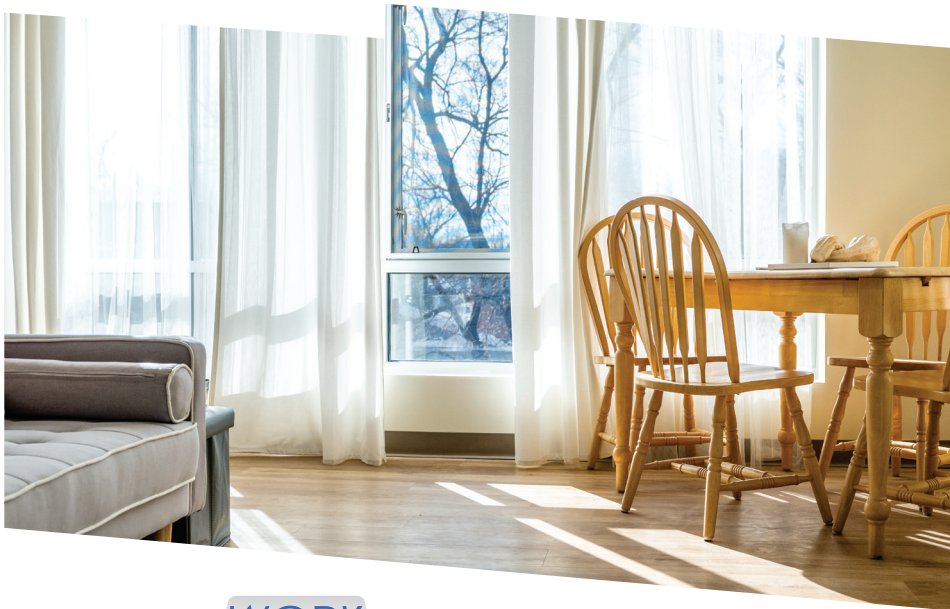
Throughout the various turns that life has taken Yoder, whether it be mothering children or learning to live in a pandemic, she has managed to keep art a focal point in her life.

“Life changes so much, there’s different stages and it’s crazy,” Yoder said. “There’s always gonna be something that might get in the way of you making work and you always just have to find a way to fit it into your life.”

CONTACT Jean Luther at lutherjm@dukes.edu.



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What is The JMU Alumni Association?

About The JMU Alumni Association

JMU was founded in 1908. Three years later, the first-ever commencement ceremonies were held with 20 women receiving degrees. **On June 13, 1911 with the university's first graduates, the Alumnae Association was born.** Since then, the university has undergone many transformations including several name changes and the inclusion of male graduates. From the original 20 graduates, the JMU Alumni Association has grown to more than **144,000 members.**



Benefits

Membership in the JMU Alumni Association is **FREE** and anyone who has completed 12 or more credit hours is considered a member ... including **YOU!** Don't wait until graduation to start taking advantage of all the benefits the JMU Alumni Association has to offer.

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- Annual events, such as Homecoming, Reunions and Senior Toast
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- Network of over 144,000 JMU Alumni worldwide
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On Cleod9

Ian McLeod fulfills childhood dream of creating a musical career



By **CAMRYN FINN**
The Breeze

It was a memorable night. After walking the red carpet alongside his family, Ian McLeod ('13) sat in the audience of over 1,500 people at the Austin Film Festival Premiere of the documentary "Cowboys." As the film began, he finally heard it over the loudspeaker: the music he and his team created. "I've always wanted to score a film, and here it was," McLeod said. "A film on the big screen."

McLeod is the founder and lead composer of Cleod9 Music, located in Washington D.C. The company composes music for short films, documentaries, commercials, feature films and other platforms. He started the company in 2014 and has been developing it ever since.

Composing and playing music has always been a part of McLeod's life. He grew up playing piano in jazz clubs around the D.C. area and the improvisatory style introduced McLeod to the idea of composing his own music. In high school, he began making beats for local artists' tracks.

"I learned at an early age you could write music," McLeod said. "You could make it and you could sell it and that was, kind of, a career."

After graduating from high school, McLeod came to JMU and majored in communication studies with a music industry minor. He continued his involvement with the music community on campus and took industry courses. He thought that he wanted to pursue a career in the advertising industry.

However, after a year working in the advertising field, McLeod said he realized it wasn't for him. He began reaching out to other entrepreneurs in the area to try and see what it would take to be successful.

"The first year out of school I worked at an ad agency, but the last two months after my nine-to-five I spent calling other entrepreneurs," McLeod said. "I basically went back to school for being an entrepreneur, just by asking questions to those who had done it before me."

Cleod9 Music is now in its seventh year. The company has grown from McLeod individually making music for his first gigs, to a team of composers working on multiple projects simultaneously. The team is a musically and culturally diverse group of musicians, which McLeod said is echoed in their company's

musical voice and helps them tackle a wide variety of projects.

"Depending on the type and style of the project, you know, I bring on the composer that kind of masters that instrument or masters that particular sound and vibe the best and we work in tandem together," McLeod said.

While he's primarily based in the D.C. area, McLeod often finds his way back to campus. For the last couple of years he's spoken to current music industry students to share his story and answer any questions they may have.

David Cottrell is a music industry professor at JMU. He teaches multiple courses, including Survey of the Music Industry, where he invites guest speakers to the class. He explained that his goal with his courses is to inspire students and share diverse stories and paths about how to get involved in the industry.

"My goal is to connect with these students, and as I tell them, really my goal is to change their lives," Cottrell said. "I want to see them realize something that they may not have even thought possible."

Dave Simons, a junior music industry major, took the Survey of Music Industry course last year and was invited to speak to this year's class about his summer music internship. He agreed that there are many entry points into the industry, so it's interesting to hear various stories.

"There's not one story to success," Simons said. "And we've learned that through our guest speakers last year and kind of the weird worlds they live in, and how they've managed to make it in the industry in so many different ways and in different capacities."

While it's been seven years since McLeod walked through the halls of JMU as a student, he continues to return and value his connection to the school. Whether it's through working with interns from JMU, returning to speak or visiting campus, he remembers his JMU experience fondly and continues to give back to the school which gave to him.

"[JMU] helps to foster and develop a really good worldview and empathetic worldview," McLeod said. "So I like coming back and giving back because it seems like that's just the nature of people that graduate from that school."

CONTACT Camryn Finn at finnce@dukes.jmu.edu.



McLeod started Cleod9 Music in 2014 as a small operation in his parents' house. Photos Courtesy of Ian McLeod



Cleod9 has created music for many projects, including the score for "Cowboys," which premiered at the Austin Film Festival.



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Steve Buckhantz has been in the broadcast industry for over 30 years. Photo Courtesy of Steve Buchhantz

DUKES

Select alumni receive the Ronald Carrier award for their outstanding achievements

from page 4

David Gill

With a friendly smile and a paintbrush in hand, David Gill ('76) repeatedly has honored James Madison University with his talents. The 6-foot-2 Richmond native always fostered a love for both the arts and sports. He majored in art education as a student at Madison College and was a forward on the men's basketball team.

After graduation, Gill taught art at Lancaster High School and painted between his teaching and coaching duties. Now a full-time painter, Gill owns an art gallery in Richmond and exhibits his work in 25-30 shows a year from Miami to Cleveland. He specializes in watercolor, offset lithographs and limited edition prints, and has compiled more than 150 awards throughout his career.

Dorothy Coffey

Dorothy Crowder Coffey ('51) is an example of the prime quality and merit of a Madison education. She graduated with the intention of becoming a teacher before an unexpected turn of events led her to become the CEO of Crowder Corporation/United Van Lines in Alexandria, Virginia.

Coffey became active in industry affairs, served as President of the Northern Virginia Household Carriers Association and served two terms as President of the Virginia Movers and Warehousemen Association (VMWA).

In 1992 Coffey won the City of Alexandria's Outstanding Women in Business Award and in 1995 she received the VMWA Commonwealth Award. After her retirement, Coffey served on the District 7610 Ambassadorial Scholarship

Committee as well as the JMU Foundation's Board of Directors.

Steve Buckhantz

If you've listened to the Washington Wizards during the past decade, you probably recognize the signature "Dagggggger!" call from play-by-play announcer Steve Buckhantz ('77). After 37 years of broadcasting experience, Buckhantz, a four-time Emmy winner, is one of the longest-tenured sportscasters in the D.C. Metro area.

Before television, Buckhantz was the voice of the morning radio show on DC 101 and AM 1260, the official play-by-play announcer for Navy football and a freelance play-by-play announcer for professional and college teams, including an occasional JMU game, on HTS.

Clint Heiden

Heiden began his career at InterCon Systems in 1991. He soon was promoted to vice president of sales and was successful in implementing a worldwide distribution strategy. In 1994, Heiden joined UUNET and served as vice president for U.S. sales, during which the company grew from \$6 million in revenue a year to an annualized run rate of \$2 billion. UUNET went public in 1995 in the third most successful initial public offering in NASDAQ history.

A distinguished alumnus and benefactor of the JMU [community], Heiden has held numerous executive level positions throughout his career, including chairman of his own company, The Heiden Group.

see **ALUMNI**, page 22

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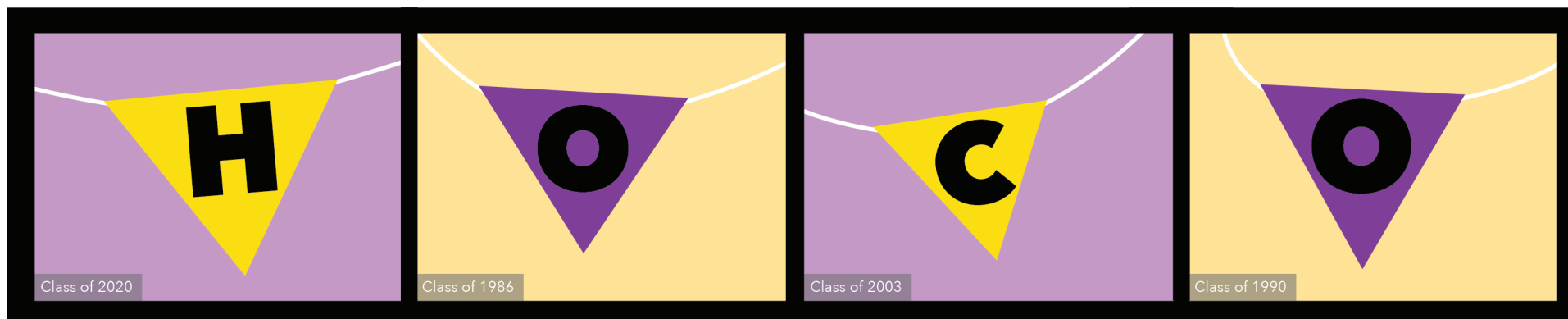
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Thursday, October 29, 2020



Graphics by Ryann Sheehy / The Breeze

By **ALEXA FITZPATRICK**
The Breeze

The pandemic may have put traditional homecoming festivities on hold, but one doesn't need to be in Bridgeforth Stadium to celebrate the football season. This year, alumni can relive their days as a Duke from home. Recreate the JMU gameday experience with these fun, socially distanced activities.

at a distance

Six ways to celebrate Homecoming from home

Tailgate at home

For many Dukes, tailgating parties are one of the most anticipated parts of Homecoming. Football fans won't be gathered on campus this year, but one can still host a tailgate from their backyard.

Set up chairs and a canopy outside and decorate with JMU-themed merchandise. Grab some beverages and make one's favorite Homecoming snacks. Invite members from one's household or social bubble to celebrate. Don't forget to sing along to the JMU Fight Song.

Go through old pictures

Break out some photo albums and flip through one's most precious JMU moments. Bring on the nostalgia by reminiscing about Homecoming games or send old college friends photos and reconnect over the memories. One can also share stories behind pictures with friends and family to get everyone into the JMU spirit.

Watch JMU football highlight reels

The Dukes may not be playing a Homecoming game in Bridgeforth Stadium this year, but one can still get their fix of JMU Football by watching highlight reels from the Dukes' best games. The official JMU Athletics website has a playlist of football videos to view and the JMUSports channel on YouTube has many football recaps and highlights to check out. Organize a virtual watch party by calling friends in order to bond over the best moments in JMU Football history.



Zoom college buddies

Meeting up in person with college buddies may not be possible this year because of COVID-19, but there are other ways to catch up with fellow Dukes. Social distancing makes connecting with friends harder. However, there are plenty of ways to stay in touch. One can invite their JMU pals to socialize on a video call. Download Zoom, or any other video conferencing platform, and host a virtual reunion with all of one's friends.

Participate in JMU Alumni Association virtual events

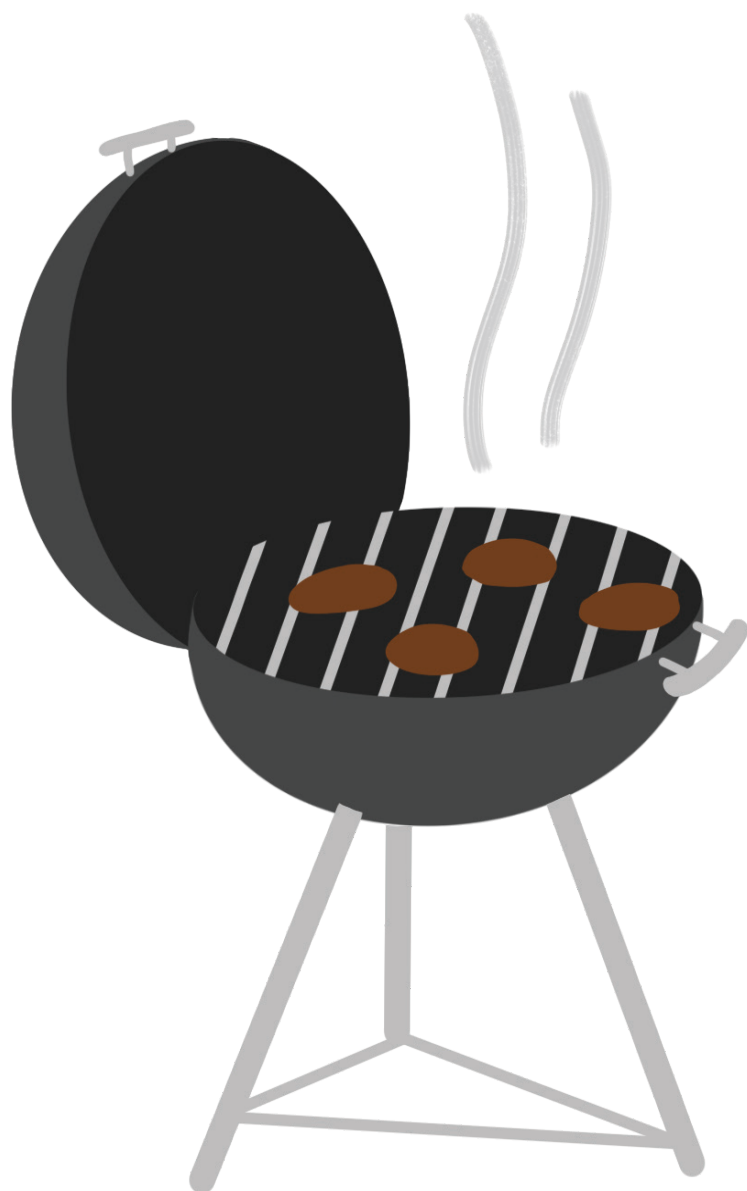
Homecoming may not be happening in person this year, but the JMU Alumni Association is still hosting many virtual events that are available for alumni. Some of the activities include a JMU scavenger hunt that can be done from home, a virtual fun run, a series of online webinars, and much more. Check out the Alumni Association's website for a full list of events it's hosting during the week.

Have a JMU-themed photoshoot

One doesn't have to be on campus to bleed purple and gold. There are many Insta-worthy opportunities at Homecoming, but one can still take good pictures without going to the event.

Show school spirit from home by dressing up in JMU apparel and have a photoshoot with purple and gold props and any other JMU merchandise one has in their house. Share the pictures on Instagram and tag @breezejmu for a chance to be featured on our social media pages.

CONTACT Alexa Fitzpatrick at thebreezeweb@gmail.com. For more on the culture, arts, and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Instagram and Twitter @Breeze_Culture.



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FOLLOW THE MANIA







Alumnus creates and hosts podcast after graduating



Positive Philter is three years old and was started in April 2017. Graphic courtesy of Philip Wilkerson

By KAMRYN KOCH
The Breeze

It's 2016. Alumnus Philip Wilkerson III ('08) is sitting in his car and starts speaking to a camera for his YouTube channel.

His series, "Random Ramblings of Philip Wilkerson," consisted of short videos of him discussing random topics every Monday. Once he heard about the popularity of podcasts, he learned the ropes and decided to start his own. In April 2017, the podcast "Positive Philter" was born.

"I'm a big people person," Wilkerson said. "It's allowed me to meet people and really connect with people, and that's what makes me very happy."

What began as Wilkerson interviewing his inner circle of friends and family turned into an opportunity to connect with a larger community. Guests on the three-year-old podcast range from small business owners to fellow Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity brothers, JMU alumni and other podcasters. Wilkerson said he recently brought on Howard Gelfand, associate professor of interdisciplinary liberal studies, as a guest on Positive Philter because they've kept in touch since Gelfand taught him a history course his freshman year.

"I was honored to have participated in his

superb podcast 'Positive Philter,' which is one of the numerous ways in which he seeks to bring thoughtful and uplifting connections between people," Gelfand said in an email.

Wilkerson transferred from Bowie State in Maryland to JMU in 2005, where he began as a business major but switched to history because he said he wanted to be in classes with fewer people. He said he went to JMU partly because his high school sweetheart, now Maggie Wilkerson ('07), was going there. After he graduated in 2008 he said he didn't know what to do with his history degree, but after getting a job in a school he realized he enjoyed education. He then went to George Mason University to get his Master's in Education with a concentration in counseling.

Since graduating from GMU, Wilkerson has been in higher education positions at Northern Virginia Community College, George Washington University and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Now, he's a manager of industry advising and employer development at GMU's Career Services. It was while Wilkerson worked for VCU that he began his podcast, which has reached nearly 200 episodes. In the podcast, Wilkerson talks about anything and frames the discussion as a learning opportunity for his listeners.

"I just make sure that the tone of voice and the overall message is positive — that's just the consistent theme throughout the whole podcast," Philip said.

Every guest on Positive Philter has taught him something, Philip said, which has allowed him to grow as a person. Maggie said she's proud of her husband because of his hard work and the effort he's put into balancing the podcast and a full time job while still being an "active" and "present" dad.

"Podcasting has opened me up to a new community of people," Philip said. "I like to say that this will serve as a time capsule for my kids."

In the future, Philip said he plans to continue to grow Positive Philter and try to bring more notable guests on the podcast. He said Positive Philter is the most consistent project in his life, and he's proud of himself for sticking with it. Career-wise, he said he wants to be more of an impactful leader on campus and continue to support Black students as an advisor for both the NAACP chapter and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at GMU.

"I think he's really driven and focused on these goals that he's setting for himself," Maggie said. "He's really established a name for himself at George Mason and has a big presence there. I'm really excited for his future plans."

CONTACT Kamryn Koch at kochkr@dukes.jmu.edu.



Wilkerson said that in the future, he wants to bring more notable guests on his podcast and continue to expand the show. Courtesy of Philip Wilkerson

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Thursday, October 29, 2020

COME CHECK US OUT FOR THE LATEST NEWS!



ALUMNI

CNN correspondent Jim Acosta received the Ronald Carrier award

Charles Haley

A versatile and ferocious defender, Charles Haley ('87) brought JMU football to new heights in the mid-1980s. A two-time All-American and a three-time Defensive MVP, Haley's 506 career tackles are the most in Madison history. He had three seasons of more than 100 tackles and was named the Virginia Division I defensive player of the year in 1985.

In 1986, Haley was selected in the fourth round of NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers — the highest-selected player in JMU history. After two Super Bowl titles in San

Francisco, Haley was traded to Dallas in 1992. The 28-year-old defensive end, known for his aggressive and practically unstoppable presence on the field, helped turn the Cowboys into a dynasty, with Super Bowl victories in 1992, 1993 and 1995.

In 12 pro seasons, Haley — the only player in NFL history with five Super Bowl rings — totaled 100.5 sacks, appeared in five Pro Bowls and was named the 1990 NFC defensive player of the year.

Raymond Mason

Army general and College of Business graduate Raymond Mason ('78) was among the first cadets to enroll in JMU's ROTC program and has been instrumental in its sustained

success — setting a high and honorable standard for all future participants.

Mason was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps in December 1978 and went on to graduate from the Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Corps, the Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

He received an M.S. in Procurement/Contract Management from the Florida Institute of Technology and an M.S. in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

Jeff Gammage

In [a] 24/7 news industry, there is no substitute for accurate reporting. Jeff Gammage ('82) is living proof that legwork is a powerful asset when used for the public good.

Gammage, a staff writer for the Philadelphia Inquirer, was part of a team of reporters honored with the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for exploration of pervasive violence in Philadelphia city schools. The series of news stories, called "Assault on Learning," was cited for using powerful narratives and multimedia to shine light on crimes committed by children against children and to help bring about safety reform for teachers and students.

A city reporter, Gammage previously worked for the Inquirer's Sunday magazine and as a national correspondent, covering eight states from the paper's Pittsburgh bureau.

Jim Acosta

Jim Acosta is CNN's senior White House correspondent, covering the Obama administration from the White House and around the world. He regularly covers presidential press

conferences, visits by heads of states, and issues impacting the Executive Branch of the federal government. Acosta is based in the network's Washington, D.C., bureau and serves as a substitute anchor for the network across a variety of CNN programs.

Previously, Acosta was national political correspondent throughout CNN's 'America's Choice 2012' election coverage, embedded with the Romney presidential campaign as the lead correspondent. Acosta sat down with Mitt Romney for two one-on-one interviews, breaking several political stories and presidential debate coverage. In addition, he covered both of President Barack Obama's inaugurations and contributed to the network's mid-term election coverage.

Kathy Warden

As Northrop Grumman's first female CEO — and one of 27 female CEOs in the Fortune 500 in 2019 — Kathy Warden's calm demeanor nearly makes one forget how much of a powerhouse she's become since graduating from JMU's College of Business in 1992. She's earned her way up the corporate ladder using her extensive experience in cybersecurity and government markets, but not without remembering the significance of a JMU education.

After working for General Electric Company for nearly 10 years in commercial industries, she ventured into the fast-paced environment of a startup organization, where she led a management consulting practice and worked with the Department of Defense.

This information was solely obtained from the Alumni Association's website. Some of the bios were cut down for clarity and brevity. For the full list of award recipients visit www.alumni.jmu.edu.



Jim Acosta visited JMU in 2018. Breeze File Photo

from page 17

Marcia Angell

Cited in Time as one of the top 25 most influential Americans, Dr. Marcia Angell ('60) has a reputation in the medical community that few can match. This Madison College alumna went on to become a Fulbright Scholar, a graduate from Boston University School of Medicine, a board-certified pathologist and the first woman to serve as editor-in-chief of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Angell is a member of the Association of American Physicians, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of the Sciences, the Alpha Omega Alpha National Honor Medical Society and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

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